February 2017 Share Package
Utility Contacts

Wendy Battle, Barrow Utilities & Electric Co-op, (907) 852-6166, wendy.battle@bueci.org
Pam Spettel, Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op, (541) 284-2147, spettelp@blachlylane.coop
Jeff Beaman, Central Electric Co-op, (541) 312-7753, jbeaman@cec.coop
Sarah Johnson, Clatskanie PUD, (503) 308-4592, sjohnson@clatskaniepud.com
James Ramseyer, Consumers Power, Inc., (541) 929-8531, jamesra@cpi.coop
Todd Munsey, Douglas Electric Co-op, (541) 673-6616, todd.munsey@dec.coop
Sabrina Owens, Escambia Electric Co-op, (850) 675-7433, sabrina@erec.com
Denise Whitehead, Glades Electric Co-op, (800) 226-4025, dwhitehead@gladesec.com
Kristin Evans, Gulf Coast Electric Co-op, (850) 913-3731, kevans@gcec.com
Theresa Phillips, Lassen Municipal Utility District, (530) 257-6944, tphillips@lmud.org
Elissa Glassman, Northern Lights, Inc., (208) 255-7187, elissa.glassman@nli.coop
Lara Petitclerc-Stokes, Oregon Trail Electric Co-op, (541) 524-2858, lpetitclerc@otecc.com
Steve Meyers, Umatilla Electric Co-op, (541) 567-6414, steve.meyers@umatillaelectric.com
Mike Hengel, Valley Electric Assoc., (775) 727-2252, mhengel@vea.coop
Traci Brock, Wasco Electric Co-op, (541) 296-2740, tracib@wascoelectric.com

Corinne Bradish, Golden Valley Electric Assn., (907) 451-5676, cabradish@gvea.com
Barbara Johnson, Tillamook PUD, (503) 815-8603, bjohnson@tpud.org
Choose the Best Windows for Your Home

Q: Our old, inefficient windows should be replaced. Every window company’s ads make theirs sound the best. How can I determine which glass, style and frame are best for my home?

A: Selecting the best replacement window is not only dependent on design characteristics, but also your specific house and family’s lifestyle.

Three criteria to consider when selecting replacement windows are the frame material, style of window and glass type.

For energy efficiency, the glass type and window style are more important than the frame material, which has a greater impact on functionality, durability, maintenance and appearance.

Typical frame materials for residential windows are vinyl, fiberglass, wood and clad wood. There are advantages of each. Vinyl window frames are energy efficient and virtually maintenance-free. They are made to the dimensions of the window opening instead of having to shim out standard sizes.

To attain adequate rigidity, the vinyl frame extrusions have many internal chambers. These chambers create natural insulation, plus the vinyl itself is not a good heat conductor. For greater R-value, choose ones with foam insulation inside the chambers.

Look for sash frames with welded corners for strength. Vinyl frames for large windows—especially dark colors in hot climates—should have internal steel reinforcement. When vinyl gets hot, it loses strength.

Fiberglass window frames are strong and can be painted any color to match the interior or exterior of the house. Since the primary component of fiberglass is glass, these frames expand and contract at about the same rate as glass panes. This minimizes stress between the glass and frame as the temperature changes.

Fiberglass frames are an advantage for dark frame colors exposed to the sun, which can create a substantial temperature range throughout the day. The strength of fiberglass frames is also an advantage for smaller windows because they work well with narrower frame cross-sections. With other frame materials, a thicker frame reduces the glass area too much.

Wood window frames have been around forever and, when properly maintained, have a long life. Wood frames also are attractive, even if you choose to paint them. It is easier to cut more complex and sharp detail into wood frame surfaces. The drawback of wood is the regular maintenance required for good appearance and energy efficiency.

Exterior vinyl- or aluminum-clad wood frames reduce the maintenance requirements. Natural wood can still be exposed on the indoor surface. Some vinyl and fiberglass window frames are available with natural wood indoor cladding.

The best window style depends on the appearance and features you desire more than a window’s efficiency. People often select double-hung windows because they can be tilted in for easy cleaning. Windows that close on a compression seal, such as casement and awning windows, tend to provide the best long-term, airtight seal. Also, casement windows can catch cross breezes for better natural ventilation.

The glass type is the key to the efficiency of a window, because it comprises the overall window opening area. Double-pane glass with low-emissivity coatings and inert gas—krypton or argon—in the gap between the panes is adequate for most climates. Triple-pane glass makes sense for very cold climates, but is it more expensive and heavier.
Transportation Continues to Evolve

Electric vehicles offer an affordable and convenient opportunity for “ruralites”

In 1971, I was a young programmer and Navy Reservist. I wrote a report for President Richard Nixon tracking violations of his wage-price freeze. Rising oil prices began a decade of rapid inflation and economic disruption. I didn’t know until later that U.S. production of cheap, conventional oil reached its all-time peak in 1970. After experiencing gas rationing, I looked for an electric car.

Why electric? Virtually all of America’s electricity is produced here in the U.S. The electricity most of you use is generated from a variety of clean, sustainable and stable resources.

An electric motor is three to four times more efficient than the ideal heat engine. For these reasons, Securing America’s Future Energy—a group that follows national energy security and economics—and many others recommend electric-powered transportation. In the ’70s, I could find only a slow, unsafe “golf cart” and another vehicle costing more than my house!

Today we have much better choices for electric vehicles, thanks to compounding 10 percent annual improvements in battery technology. There are now more than 28 models of plug-in cars from almost every automaker driven today in America.

All-electric cars now can go 90 to 300 miles on a single charge for a fill-up cost of $2 to $7; require little maintenance and no oil changes; and typically charge overnight at home. At home charging can work especially well for rural residents who may live many miles from a gas station. Nearly all EVs come with a portable, lightweight 110-volt charging adapter that plugs in at home or wherever electricity is available. Faster 240V versions also are available.

Most EVs also can use fast chargers for longer trips. EV drivers seldom fully charge on the road, since charging a battery is like pouring water into a glass—you slow down as it fills. As an EV owner, we usually charge only enough to get to the next station with a comfortable margin. We plan meals and breaks at charging stops to avoid waiting the 20 to 45 minutes it takes to fast charge. To find public charging stations, go to plugshare.com.

Affordable? I know one Ruralite reader who just leased a new Nissan Leaf for $0 down, and $259 a month for three years with 15,000 miles/year allowance. Off lease, they sell for as low as $8,000.

The 238-mile range Chevy Bolt costs $38,000, not much more than the $35,000 average car price today. For rural drivers, the fuel and maintenance savings quickly make up for higher up-front cost. Electricity prices increase slowly—usually only once a year—so there are no wild price swings. Many electric cars are made in the U.S., supporting American jobs.

Durable? Simple EV drive trains will outlast the car body. There is no transmission. The battery does not die suddenly, but gradually loses capacity as it ages. By the time it needs to be replaced, new batteries cost less and/or have much more driving range. My 2000 all-electric Honda Insight conversion has undergone two upgrades. It still runs as well as ever, but goes much farther.

EVs are fun to drive. They have very smooth acceleration and, together with their low center of gravity and motor braking, they drive much like a sports car. They don’t lose traction changing gears on icy roads. And yes, they are quiet.

But it’s really hard to describe. You will just have to experience the “EV grin” yourself.

Call a few car dealers, see which ones have EVs in stock and take one for a test drive. I think you’ll be impressed.

For more information, go to pluginamerica.org.
Your Co-op  Your Community

By Jennifer Brown

Take a minute to think about sports. Several key elements are needed to set the stage for a winning season: a coach, players, fans and a game plan.

Using these elements, people work together to make it happen. The coach is the guide, the players execute the plan, the fans support the system and the game plan is the blueprint for success. Each segment is an important part of the whole.

As a form of business owned by the people who use it, a cooperatives is much like a sports team. To have a complete team, they have several important people:

- Members, as the member-users.
- Board of directors, as the policymaking body.
- Management, as supervisor.
- Employees, as the work force.

At its core, an electric cooperative is a self-help organization controlled and regulated by its members. Each member shares an equal responsibility to be knowledgeable about matters affecting the co-op—and, therefore, its members.

Rights of Members

Cooperative members normally have the right to:

- Adopt and amend the articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- Elect and, if necessary, remove directors.
- Require officers, directors and other agents to comply with the law, its articles of incorporation, bylaws and membership contracts.
- Hold directors and officers liable for damage injurious to members.
- Examine annual reports.

Responsibilities of Members

While members are granted various rights, they are also charged with several responsibilities:

- Be informed about the cooperative. Members must know what the cooperative is, what it can do for them, its purpose, objectives, policies and the issues it faces. They obtain information through annual reports and newsletters, and by talking to the manager and directors.

To effectively exercise the right of ownership, a member needs a good understanding of the present situation and projected operations.

Plumas-Sierra Electric Cooperative in Portola, California, counts on both the print and online editions of Ruralite to reach its members.

“I feel this is our single, most important communication vehicle, as it provides our members with information about co-ops in general, as well as vital information on current projects and concerns here at PSREC,” says Member Services and Marketing Manager Donna Mills.

PSREC General Manager Bob Marshall takes advantage of space allotted to him for a personal message in the magazine each month.

“He includes his contact information in every manager’s column, and encourages members to communicate with him directly or visit with their district director with questions, ideas or concerns,” Mills says.

The co-op also reaches out to its members via direct

Responsible Ownership

As a member of an electric cooperative, you have a say in cooperative business

By Jennifer Brown

FEBRUARY 2017
mail, town hall meetings, annual meetings and social media.

- **Participate in selecting and evaluating directors.** Although the cooperative is a democratically controlled form of business, members cannot make decisions directly. Members select individuals from among their peers with the best judgment and business management skills to represent them as the cooperative’s board of directors.

E lecting a representational board of directors is one of the most important responsibilities. Once elected, the board of directors decides what the co-op will do. The general manager and staff decide how the co-op can best serve members effectively.

For many electric cooperatives, turnover on their board of directors is not a problem. Rather, it can be difficult to replace those directors who have retired.

“We do have problems with members that get nominated by the nominating committee not wishing to run for the position,” says Troy Cox, manager of Columbia Power Electric Cooperative in Monument, Oregon. “Some people just simply do not want to be a director, and others say they are happy with the co-op as it is.”

“I don’t think that the younger generation of members we have fully understand that they are members and do have a say in cooperative business.”

- **Provide necessary capital to finance the cooperative’s needed goods and services, not for financial returns.** This is done through continued patronage of the cooperative. Members’ patronage finances the cooperative so the business can continue. The greater the patronage, the more likely the co-op can provide, expand and improve its services. If the co-op loses money, members have the same responsibility to share in those losses.

- **Adopt legal papers.** Members are responsible for reading, understanding, adopting and amending articles of incorporation and bylaws. Before voting to approve bylaw amendments, members need to determine how they will affect the business.

- **Attend monthly and annual meetings.** A cooperative’s annual meeting is open to all members, where they can hear an update from the board, the general manager, finance director and other staff about the financial health and daily operations of the co-op.

“For us, the annual meeting is a chance to let the members know about the co-op’s accomplishments from the year,” says James Ramseyer, director of member services at Consumers Power Inc. in Philomath, Oregon. “It gives them a good idea of the industry and what CPI has done to improve service.”

At CPI, an added perk is a free meal and a gift for each member, he notes.

“The annual meeting is also the members’ opportunity to vote,” Ramseyer says. “They can vote by mail, but a lot of them like to bring their ballot and drop it off in person.”

**Patronize the cooperative.** If members do not want to use the cooperative, the need for it must be re-examined. This list is not all-encompassing. Some of the responsibilities listed are more important than others. To be a meaningful and useful business organization, the cooperative must have members who understand it, and take their rights and responsibilities seriously.

“If we cannot encourage our members to be active participants as directors, attending our annual meeting, etc., we are going to be left with members that do not understand how the cooperative works” Cox says. “It took the cooperative principles and cooperative membership working together to bring power into areas such as ours cost-effectively.”

*Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture*
A Solid Investment in Your Electric Co-op

A basic service charge is the best way for members to share the cost of providing power

By Anne Prince

As a member of Consumers Power Inc., you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The basic service charge is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cybersecurity threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The basic service charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly, and staff is trained and ready so the lights turn on when you need them.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the basic service charge each month to cover basic operational costs. All members are charged the same amount for the cost of operation because all members benefit from the same service. In essence, this gives each co-op member an equal share in CPI’s operation.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value the investment you make in the co-op each month, and we strive to use that investment wisely for the benefit of all members of our community. ■
Consumers Power

Safety is a priority for Consumers Power employees. Their safety and that of CPI members may be affected by the electricity itself, by the lifting or falling of something heavy, by the terrain and trees or by any combination of these situations and others.

Before heading out to start a job, crews are briefed about potential hazards. After inspecting the job site upon arrival, there is usually another discussion.

This kind of attention to detail has resulted in CPI being only two months shy of three years with no time loss because of an on-the-job injury that resulted in a worker staying home.

While that is a number employees can be proud of, Greg Pierce, CPI’s director of operations, likes to emphasize the present moment.

“Although that is a really impressive achievement, I don’t want to put too much emphasis on one year, two years,” Greg says. “Right now, it is doing this job today correctly and safely, and tomorrow’s job safely. If we do the work the way we’ve been trained, the days will add up into years.

“It’s the job in front of you, the equipment you’re using, the pole you’re lifting, the hazardous tree you’re removing, the loading task on the warehouse dock. It is safety in the moment. That is what wins the day.”

Greg has worked in the electricity business for 36 years,—31 of them with CPI. He supervises 35 employees: linemen, fleet...
mechanic, warehouse workers, materials and compliance managers, and system operators. His goal is for everyone to do their jobs successfully and to return home safely at the end of the day.

Linemen are most at risk because they work outside with hazards such as inclement weather, rough terrain, unstable and falling trees and poles, downed lines and loose soil. They have to assess the situation and decide how to safely solve the problem.

“They are tasked with making safety decisions and hazard assessments all day long,” Greg says.

At the warehouse, workers must be aware of stacked power poles and forklifts on the move retrieving items stored high overhead.

“All those things can be hazardous, and they have to be carefully assessed in order to eliminate any incidents,” Greg says. “The warehouse has to be kept safe and clean to prevent accidents.”

The fleet mechanic works to keep CPI’s bucket trucks, digger truck, pickups, cars, trailers, all-terrain vehicles and a boat in good running condition. The co-op has about 100 units of rolling stock, plus a snow machine and a track vehicle, the latter for use in mowing rights-of-way. The mechanic works with a hoist in his shop, which means he is under vehicles and under the hoods of vehicles while maintaining them.

System operators sit in the office in front of computer screens, but they play an important role in monitoring and controlling CPI’s power system. They can see digitally where a line is down, where a tree has fallen on a power pole or line and where CPI vehicles are in the field. Operators communicate with field crews on the radio or cellphones.

“Two of them go through the decision process,” Greg explains. “What’s happening, what resources are available, where do I send the crew, and what do I tell them to do. They could have a guy go to a substation and cut the power or de-energize a line before work is done or to re-energize a line.

“These operators watch out for the safety of the public and of our workers.”

The system operators can see a digital model of CPI’s power system while the outside crews see what is actually happening.

“They must communicate, using terminology they both understand,” Greg says. “I think there is a great relationship between our inside system operators and our outside linemen.”

Billy Terry, the operations manager directly responsible for the line crews in the field, says employees have taken ownership of safety. Employees must sign off on a job briefing sheet prior to the start of a project, indicating they are aware of the different aspects and possible hazards of the project.

“At the job site, they can address any issues, ask any questions about any concerns they might have,” Billy says. “Every situation is different, and what we’ve preached to our guys is to know every situation before starting the work.

CPI crews have safety meetings before starting a new project to ensure everyone understands the dangers and how to avoid them.

“Numbers are great, but the task at hand, the everyday focus, is the most important aspect of being safe.”

CPI holds monthly safety meetings, most conducted by the employees. One or two employees frequently attend safety workshops or training sessions and make a presentation at a monthly meeting when they return.

One theme the CPI employees have is, “Speak up, listen up.” They are encouraged to share potential accident situations and near misses, and to listen closely so those do not become actual accidents.

“Relating real-world situations can be helpful in dealing with future problems,” Billy says.

“There is real value in open conversations, the respectful sharing of information about incidents, near misses, screw ups,” Greg says. “We’re careful not to punish a screw up. There can be more value in discussing it than in slapping somebody’s hand. With a punishment, you run the risk of not bringing up near misses again, and then you’ve lost future learning moments.”

Greg adds, however, that a willfully negligent action can result in a verbal warning, written warning, suspension or termination. He says termination for negligence has been rare at CPI.

Billy says he could not be more proud of CPI’s employees and the way they go about their work safely.

“For a small co-op, for the work they do, for the hours they put in, I don’t think words can describe what a huge feat it is for them to be this safe,” he says.

Greg agrees.

“My goal,” he says, “is for everybody to have the career they want, to work as long as they want, to work without pain, to choose their own retirement and still be able to cast a fishing line, swing a golf club or pick up their grandkids. I don’t want them not to be able to do any of that because of a careless work habit or environment.”
In 2016, about 5 percent of CPI members participated in energy-efficiency projects. Together, we saved a total of 2,720,149 kilowatt-hours. That is enough energy to power more than 200 homes for an entire year.

Below are some program highlights.

A Energy Star Homes: Several members bought an Energy Star-certified home, saving themselves an average of $500 a year in energy costs.

B Insulation: Members added more than 30,000 square feet of insulation, which is the simplest and most cost-effective way to reduce energy waste.

C Heating and Cooling: 155 members upgraded to heat pump technology, decreasing their heating/cooling costs by up to 50 percent.

D Window Replacement: More than 75 members replaced 8,500 square feet of inefficient windows, where up to 22 percent of heat loss typically occurs.

E Appliances: 134 members upgraded to Energy Star clothes washers and dryers, which on average save $700 during their lifetime.

F Renewable Energy Systems: 31 new systems were added, bringing the total to 234 net-metered installations. CPI now has more than a megawatt of solar capacity installed on our system, which is enough to power more than 100 homes.

G Heat Pump Water Heaters: 42 families opted to save up to 50 percent of their water heating costs by switching out their old water heaters.

H Lighting: CPI sold more than 2,200 energy-efficient bulbs, which can save you as much as 85 percent of your lighting costs.

I Showerheads: 204 showerheads were given away, saving the average family 2,900 gallons of hot water a year.

If you are interested in participating in these programs, visit us at www.cpi.coop or (800) 872-9036.
Be an Action Hero! Join ORECA-Action.org Today
Join a grassroots effort by Umatilla Electric and the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association to promote common sense solutions for our energy future.

We’ll email you with information to send messages directly to our elected officials when legislation or other issues arise that could impact our cooperative. See details and sign up directly at ORECA-Action.org.

Nominate a Veteran for the Adventure of a Lifetime

CoBank, a national cooperative that provides financial services to Umatilla Electric, has asked UEC and other rural electric cooperatives to nominate one disabled veteran from their community for the No Barriers Warriors adventure program.

For generations, rural America has produced a disproportionate share of our armed forces. There are 22 million veterans in the United States - and 5.3 million of them live in rural communities. Of those, more than 40 percent have service-related disabilities.

CoBank is teaming with No Barriers USA to support rural veterans with disabilities by sponsoring a series of expeditions that challenge them mentally and physically. Veterans will be provided with the support they need to meet those challenges, and in the process, will learn that they are more than capable of overcoming the challenges that they face in their day-to-day lives.

The program is open to veterans from all eras and branches of service, combat and non-combat, with visible and invisible injuries – all that is required is a VA disability rating.

Up to 50 veterans nationwide will ultimately be selected to participate in the program. CoBank will cover the full cost of the program for each participant, including travel.

If you have questions or would like to be considered as a nominee from UEC, please contact Steve Meyers at: steve.meyers@umatillaelectric.com or call 541 567-6414 or visit our website.
Apply Today! Deadline is March 1, 2017

Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2017-18 school year:

ACADEMIC
Twelve $2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at: www.oregonstudentaid.gov by March 1, 2017.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
A $5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply by March 1, 2017 at www.oregonstudentaid.gov.

LINEMAN TRADE
A $2,000 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Go to: www.UmatillaElectric.com to download the application. Apply by March 1, 2017.

UEC wants to help make college accessible to our young members. We hope you apply. For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: UmatillaElectric.com. You can also call us at 541-567-6414 or OSAC at 1-800-452-8807.
Nearly 90 local businesses offer discounts to UEC members. (See adjoining list, and watch for frequent additions posted at [UmatillaElectric.com](http://UmatillaElectric.com)). Find the full list of local and national discounts, as well as medical discounts, by visiting [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

**Lost your card?** Please contact UEC and we can send you a new card or you can print one yourself by following the instructions at [Connections.coop](http://Connections.coop).

---

### Shop Local. Save Money with the UEC Co-Op Connections Card!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS NAME</th>
<th>DISCOUNT OFFER*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A to Z Barber Shop</td>
<td>$1 Off Haircuts Wednesday Only. Discount Only Good When You Ask For Toni.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron’s of Hermiston</td>
<td>60% Off 1st Payment on Lease Agreement, 10% Off Retail Purchases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy Mortgage</td>
<td>$100 Lender Credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ace Jewelry &amp; Loan</td>
<td>10% Off Storewide (Excluding Firearms and Pawns).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamaris Boutique</td>
<td>10% off all formal wear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Family Eyewear</td>
<td>$10 Off Purchase of $50 or More.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Daniel Jewelry Works</td>
<td>10% Off In-Store Owned Gold and Silver Jewelry Only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alive &amp; Well</td>
<td>$10 Off $100 Purchase or More of Gift Items (Excludes Food, Supplements and Juice Bar).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All American Heating &amp; Cooling, LLC</td>
<td>10% off any RESIDENTAL ONLY service call. Must mention Coop Connection card when initial call is made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All That Wood, LLC</td>
<td>Free Easy Gate Kit With 100’ Wood Fencing Purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Printing</td>
<td>20% Off Custom Full Color Business Cards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America’s Window - Tinting &amp; Graphics</td>
<td>$15.00 of any complete window tinting or 2 front door vehicle windows (discount off original pricing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-Plus Connectors, LLC</td>
<td>10% Off All In-Stock Inventory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunty Ida’s Quilt Shop &amp; Bernina Sewing Center</td>
<td>15% Off $100 or More Purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazaar Happenings</td>
<td>10% Off Any Purchase of $100 or More.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella’s Massage</td>
<td>Purchase $100 or More of Massage Therapy Sessions and Receive a 10% Discount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe</td>
<td>Free Single Scoop Ice Cream Cone with A Purchase of $25 or More.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert’s Auto Salvage &amp; Towing</td>
<td>10% Off Base Towing (local only) and 10% Off All Parts Over $50.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomz Floral and Boutique</td>
<td>10% Off Storewide Including Flowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost Mobile</td>
<td>25% off all cases in stock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy &amp; Save Furniture</td>
<td>$20 Credit Towards Next Purchase with $500 or More Purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C &amp; C Second Hand, LLC</td>
<td>10% Off Storewide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C and R Mercantile Co.</td>
<td>5% Off $50 or More With Purchase of Any Watkins Products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casiday Battery Co.</td>
<td>5% Off Total Purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casitakits.com LLC</td>
<td>With purchase of wall and roof framing kit, we will provide kitchen cabinets for free (approximately a $1200 value). Countertop and installation is not included in this offer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuckwagon Café</td>
<td>10% off Co-op Connections Cardholder, Including Groups, Monday and Tuesday Only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Court Club</td>
<td>50% Off Joining Fees with 1 Year Membership, and Free Daycare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Outdoor Sports and Surplus, Inc.</td>
<td>10% Off Storewide, Excluding Guns and Ammo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia River Machinery</td>
<td>20% off any rental up to $400.00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia River Powder Coating, LLC</td>
<td>10% off any service.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Must Present Co-op Connections Card Before Purchase. Not Good With Any Other Discounts. Check with individual retailers for specific exclusions.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS NAME</th>
<th>DISCOUNT OFFER*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia RV Center</td>
<td>10% Off All Parts and Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Tire--Hermiston</td>
<td>$10 Off Any Regular Priced Oil Change, or $10 Off Any Regular Priced Alignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Gourmet and BBQ by Sharon's Sweet Treats</td>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday Only 10% Off Meal and Drink.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crazy Mike's Video</td>
<td>Movie Night: 2-One Night Premiers with 2 Popcorns &amp; 1–2 Liter for $8.99, Sunday-Thursday Only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan's West Coast Auto Glass</td>
<td>$50 Off Windshield Install or $10 Off Rock Chip Repair. Call For Details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis’ Vacuum</td>
<td>20% Off Labor for Vacuum and Sewing Machines. Must Present Co-op Connections Card Before Repair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Auto, LLC</td>
<td>10% Off Sale Price of Automobile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Cobbler Shoe &amp; Boot Repair</td>
<td>10% off all shoe repair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQ Grill &amp; Chill Restaurant</td>
<td>$.50 Off Any MooLatté.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter</td>
<td>All Purchases of $50 and Above Receive Free Gift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Oregon Tactical, LLC</td>
<td>$20 Off Any Firearm Worth $500 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eclipse Heating and Cooling, LLC</td>
<td>$40 Off Service Repair Call, or $200 Off Purchase of A New System, or $50 Off Duct Sealing Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essence Emporium Vape Shop</td>
<td>10% Off Storewide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert Auto Detailing</td>
<td>$20 Off Complete Personal Auto Detailing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express Car Audio Detailing and Tinting</td>
<td>15% Off In-Store Inventory Purchases of $100 or more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers Insurance/Joanna Hayden Agency</td>
<td>Farmers Insurance goodie bag when you get a quote for insurance coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenders by Enders, LLC</td>
<td>Free 5 Quart Oil Change with Any Service Over $250. Must Present Co-op Connections Card Before Service Work Starts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FitTeam Global</td>
<td>Receive a Free Water Bottle with First Order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follett's Meat Company</td>
<td>10% Off $100 or More of Any Retail Meat Purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun Fashions Boutique</td>
<td>10% Off Any Purchase of $100 or More.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun Time Miniature Golf</td>
<td>$2 Off for Adults and $1 Off for Children that Accompany Them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**G & S Tire Factory**
10% Off Purchase of Full Set Premium Tires.

**Goss Family Jewelers**
10% Off Jewelry Repair.

**Hermiston Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram**
10% Off service and repair.

**High Desert Marine**
10% Off All In-Stock Terminal Tackle.

**Horn’s Home Improvements**
$1.00 off per Square Yard of carpeting.

**Kay C’s Art & Collectibles**
15% Off Retail Price, Some Exceptions Apply. See Store for Details.

**Kopacz Nursery & Florist**
10% Off Storewide (Except Bulk Products).

**Lawan’s Thai Garden**
10% Off Between 1 and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

**Mailing Made Easy @ Mail Office Plus**
10% Off Mailing Made Easy Services.

**Master Loney Martial Arts Center**
50% Off First Month.

See page 8 for more discounts.
You Can Make a Difference

Shape your future by exercising your rights and speaking up

Wasco Electric Cooperative belongs to a statewide association called the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. ORECA’s role, on behalf of the Oregon cooperatives, is to lobby against mandates and laws that jeopardize things such as local control and affordable, economical, and reliable power. They can’t, however, do this alone.

Cooperatives such as Wasco Electric encourage their members to band together to promote common-sense solutions by way of our grassroots program, ORECA-Action.

By signing up, you will maximize your voice to hold elected officials accountable and promote the importance of Oregon’s electric cooperatives.

ORECA’s priorities in representing the interests of electric cooperatives before the Oregon Legislature include:
- Supporting the development and distribution of electricity with the highest quality of service at the lowest possible rates consistent with prudent business practices.
- Maintaining the integrity of the Oregon utility territorial laws and allocations that protect members and their investments in their electric co-ops.
- Supporting the coordinated development of rural areas in Oregon through the supply of low-cost, Bonneville Power Administration power to rural business, industry and homes.
- Protecting the ability of electric cooperatives to do business in Oregon by retaining the Cooperative Corporation Statutes.
- Maintaining the benefit of self-governance of member-owned utilities.
- Preserving the benefits of the low-cost federal hydro system, and preserving preference power for consumer-owned utilities.
- Opposing unnecessary mandates, regulations and costs.
- Maintaining the right of electric cooperatives to provide additional services, without significant tax penalties, to our consumer-owners.

From time to time, ORECA may delve into national and federal issues to protect the interests of electric cooperatives.

To become an ORECA-Action advocate, go to www.wascoelectric.com, follow the steps in the flow chart and register today.

Remember, you can make a difference!

Go online to Wasco Electric’s website at wascoelectric.com and click on the ORECA logo.
To:

From: ORECA.Action

Re: Welcome to ORECA.Action

Thank you for registering as an ORECA-Action advocate. From time to time, you will receive emails and notifications updating you on the latest cooperative issues from Salem. There will also be times where we issue a CALL TO ACTION alert. This is when you are needed the most. Call, write or email your representative and let them know your feelings on the issue at hand.

Click on the ORECA Action link. You will be taken to the CO-OPS VOTE page, where you can register as a grassroots advocate and weigh in on an issue.

By clicking on the JOIN US link on the CO-OPS VOTE page you can register as a grassroots advocate, weigh in on an issue, or share information with friends.

Enter your information and click on the REGISTER button. You will be added to the ORECA.Action database and you are ready to go.

You will receive a confirmation email thanking you for registering as an ORECA-Action advocate.

When alerted, grassroot advocates will write, email or call their representatives and provide input on specific issues that affect electric co-op members across the state.

The Oregon Legislature will discuss the issues during the legislative session and determine the outcome of those issues affecting Oregonian co-op members and you will be notified as to what took place during the session.

Don’t Wait. Choose To Make A Difference. Join Today!
FREE ENERGY-EFFICIENCY KIT FOR YOUR HOME

Free Energy-Efficiency Kit—No Strings Attached!

Douglas Electric Cooperative will send one free energy-efficiency kit to members who request it.

Your free energy-saving kit includes: One Embertec Emberstrip and four 9-Watt (75W equivalent) MaxLite LED bulbs.

This is a great way to save, with no strings attached!

Offer good while supplies last. Limit one per household. Allow 4 to 12 weeks for delivery. All kits are shipped via U.S. Postal Service.

To order your free energy-efficiency kit, call Douglas Electric Cooperative at (503) 907-2901, or go to http://dec.gpfulfillment.net or email conservationsales@generalpacific.com.

To order additional energy saving products, visit www.gpconservation.com. Shipping is free to the continental U.S. on orders of $50 or more.
Savings That Make a Splash

Cut electric water-heating costs by up to 66 percent

Perry’s Supply in North Bend is offering a limited time promotional price of $799 on an efficient Reliance 50-gallon hybrid electric heat pump water heater. Douglas Electric offers a $500 rebate, making your net cost an amazing $299. Call (541) 673-6616 or go to www.dec.coop for a “pre-approval” application.
You Can Make a Difference
Shape your co-op’s future by exercising your rights! Speak up!

Central Electric belongs to the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which lobbies lawmakers and state officials for legislation that supports our mission and against mandates that jeopardize co-op values such as local control and affordable, economical and reliable power. We cannot do this alone. Cooperatives across Oregon, such as Central Electric, encourage members to promote common-sense solutions by way of our political grassroots program: ORECA. Action.

Sign up and become a member of ORECA.Action. By signing up, you will become an important voice in our efforts to hold elected officials accountable and promote the importance of Oregon’s electric cooperatives. Go online to Central Electric’s website at www.cec.coop and click on the ORECA.Action link on the left side of the home page. By joining ORECA.Action, you can help:

- Support efforts to make electricity available to members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.
- Maintain the integrity of Oregon’s utility territorial laws.
- Protect the ability of electric cooperatives to do business in Oregon by retaining the Cooperative Corporation Statutes.
- Maintain the benefit of self-governance of member-owned utilities.
- Preserve the benefits of the low-cost federal hydro system, and preserve preference power for consumer-owned utilities.
- Oppose unnecessary mandates, regulations and costs.
- Maintain the right of electric cooperatives to provide additional services, without significant tax penalties, to our consumer-owners.

Note: From time to time, ORECA.Action may delve into national and federal issues to protect the interests of electric cooperatives.

To become an ORECA.Action advocate, go to www.cec.coop and follow the steps in the flow chart and register today. Remember, your voice can make a difference.

Choose To Make A Difference. Join Today!
Cooperative Principle No. 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

Last month, significant winter storm activity affected electric service to thousands of homes in our region. The icy winter weather skirted the Blachly-Lane service area, yet our lineworkers rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help other utilities get their customers back in service. Through mutual aid agreements, local co-ops commit to stepping in to help others when needed. This time, we were in the fortunate position to offer help. Other times it is Blachly-Lane who needs the assistance to get our members back in service. This is just one example of how cooperation among cooperatives works on behalf of Blachly-Lane members.

Mutual support—cooperation among cooperatives—improves services, bolsters local economies and more effectively meets community needs. Blachly-Lane does business with at least 18 cooperatives for goods and services, such as: financial services; insurance; answering service and after-hours outage reporting and dispatch; information technology and security services; generation and transmission management services and resource services; property management; electrical system materials; monthly member magazine; energy efficiency services; marketing, branding and discount programs; safety program services; state, regional and national education and lobbying.

“Our relationships with other co-ops makes our business more efficient,” says General Manager Joe Jarvis. “Rather than keeping full-time personnel to provide services we only need on occasion, our costs are kept low. Co-ops don’t work on a for-profit basis, so we know we’re paying only what it costs for the things we need, and we have the added benefit of receiving capital credits on our patronage with other co-ops.”

Cooperation among cooperatives could seem confusing or even out-and-out anti-business to the conventional businessperson. In business, competition for profit is the driving force. But in cooperative business, profit is a means and not an end. The goal of cooperative business is to satisfy the needs and desires of the member-owners of the co-op. Cooperatives can share resources in mutual support because they do not aim to take customers from each other.

Members benefit when co-ops join together to get better deals, eliminate duplicate costs, expand services to members and strengthen the movement as a whole—just a few advantages that come from following the sixth principle.

As part of its 80th anniversary celebration, Blachly-Lane Electric will take a closer look at the Seven Cooperative Principles at the core of its existence. The seven principles are the solid foundation upon which the cooperative business model is built.
By Elissa Glassman

Continuing Northern Lights’ history of supporting education, the co-op is now accepting applications for the educational scholarship program. The NLI Board of Directors has authorized 10 $500 educational scholarships to be awarded. The scholarships will be presented at NLI’s 82nd Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at Sandpoint Business and Events Center.

NLI Educational Scholarship Guidelines
The NLI scholarships are for graduating high school seniors entering their freshman year at college or vocational college or lineworker college, or current undergraduate students. Continuing educational studies may be completed at a local or out-of-state college or university. Graduate students are not eligible.

The applicant or their parent/guardian must be a member of NLI to qualify for the scholarship.

Applicants must submit a completed application form, available from NLI. Applicants must detail their goals in a personal statement. Two letters of recommendation from current teachers and one character reference letter must be included with the application.

Applications must be submitted to NLI by mail and postmarked no later than April 7, 2017. NLI employees, directors and their families are not eligible (with the exception of lineworker college).

The NLI Scholarship Committee will select the 10 scholarship winners. Winners will be notified by April 25, 2017. Selection of scholarship recipients will be based on the following:

- Grade point average
- School and community activities
- Personal statement
- Financial need

A scholarship certificate announcing the award will be presented to each of the winners in time for recognition during graduation ceremonies, if applicable. Funds will not be disbursed until proof of enrollment in the college or university of the scholarship recipient is received by NLI. Once proof of enrollment is received, the funds will be sent directly to the college or university in the student’s name during the fall semester. Scholarships must be claimed by December 31, 2017, or the money will be forfeited.

Applications are available by calling (208) 255-7197, or at NLI’s Sagle office, 421 Chevy St., Sagle, Id 83860, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or online at www.nli.coop.
A polar bear hunts on the edge of an ice flow, by Yves Brower.
Utilities Raise Awareness About Scams

Don’t fall victim to scammers, who come up with new tactics every day to try to take advantage of consumers

By Tracy Warren

When a scammer called Florida pet clinic operator Cindy Evers last year and demanded immediate payment on an overdue electric bill, it sounded real.

“They knew my account number and gave me a figure that I owed that’s close to what I usually pay on my electric bill,” Cindy says. She paid, even though—in the back of her mind—she knew her payment was not late.

“I have pets under sedation, and I’m taking care of animals,” Cindy says. “I think I just panicked, thinking they were going to shut my electricity off. I did what they told me to do.”

The call was a scam. Cindy lost $900. She is not the only person to have been victimized. The scam that duped Cindy has been plaguing utility consumers across North America for several years, robbing them of millions.

Now, utilities are fighting back.

More than 80 utilities and energy industry organizations from across the United States and Canada joined forces to recognize the first-ever North American Utilities United Against Scams Day on November 16, 2016.

Electric cooperatives have increased their communication efforts, sending information directly to members and encouraging local TV stations and newspapers to warn citizens about the scam, how it works and what people should do and not do if they are targeted.

Even the wariest consumers can be duped. Scammers develop new tactics every day.

The “past due” scam—similar to the one Cindy experienced—goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number.

Widely available spoofing software allows crooks to display what appears to be an official number on caller ID. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer does not pay.

But here is the giveaway: The crook will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order, and will ask for it within a specified time frame—often an hour or less.

The scammer may even quote an amount that sounds like your typical monthly bill. That way, the threat has more credibility.

Scammers might direct the customer to a specific store nearby that sells the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

Some scammers have even been bold enough to contact potential victims in person, coming to the member’s house.

If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.

Tips to Protect Yourself

• Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
• Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
• Never wire money to someone you do not know.
• Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts—especially those asking for your account information.
• Most utilities will NOT require their customers to buy prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
How You Can Help Thwart Scammers

Awareness is the first step to preventing you or someone you know from becoming a victim of scammers.

Here are two ways you can help spread the word:

- Alert your family members and friends. Share the scammers’ tactics described in this article and any other tactics you have heard about.
- Warn even those you do not know by reposting scam awareness information on social media. Use the hashtag #stopscams.

We want you to be aware of a growing phone scam that is targeting utility customers.

Phone scammers posing as your utility provider call and insist you are delinquent on your bill. They may also threaten to turn off your power if you don’t pay immediately, or to make it look like the call is from your utility provider or tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card and ask for the card number. Don’t believe it.

DO NOT pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection. Here’s what to do if the call seems suspicious:

1. Hang up.
2. Call your utility provider at the phone number on your bill.
3. Call the police.

Protect yourself from this and other forms of fraud.
I’m pleased to report that crews from Valley Electric and Valley Communications associations have nearly finished installing equipment on 32 of 34 towers in Pahrump. The radio equipment on those towers is what allows us to transmit high-speed broadband to nearby homes.

The bottom line is we now have the infrastructure to serve more than 95 percent of our members in town.

We are committed to bringing you broadband as quickly as possible. In fact, until the end of February, VCA will buy out existing, competing broadband contracts for anyone in our service territory. On top of that, we will provide a $20 credit for every referral of a signed, broadband agreement. (More details elsewhere in this month’s Ruralite.)

We continue to hear from our Valley Electric Association member-owners throughout our service area who want to know when they will be able to enjoy high-speed broadband. I personally receive calls frequently as do members of our Board of Directors.

We still have work to do in Sandy Valley, Beatty and Amargosa Valley. We have been slowed in those areas by the process of gaining approvals from various agencies.

To speed up the installations for those awaiting service, we have hired dozens of contractors. They come from all over the West.

Every day, our VCA installers and technicians connect dozens of member-owners in our service territory. Some of our members have waited for months.

Broadband is that important. We don’t want you to wait a day longer than is necessary.

Until next month,

Thomas H. Husted,
Chief Executive Officer

Correction

The districts up for election in the 2017 cycle were incorrectly listed in the January issue of the Ruralite. Districts 5 and 6 will conduct elections this year.
It was New Year’s Eve, but in Northern Nevada’s Diamond Valley State Sen. Pete Goicoechea wasn’t preparing for a night on the town.

The longtime Eureka County rancher was grabbing a quick lunch before returning to his herd, which averages more than 700 on his family’s 3,000-acre spread. Winter had come to Eureka County, and there was a freeze in the air.

“These old cows don’t know whether it’s New Year’s or Thanksgiving,” Goicoechea said, laughing.

It’s not much of a stretch to imagine that learning to bring in the herd and round up strays has helped prepare Goicoechea for his other career serving the constituents of rural counties, including Elko, Eureka, White Pine, Lincoln and parts of Nye and Clark. Goicoechea graduated from Eureka High and has raised his family in Northern Nevada.

In Nevada, politics is divided not only by party, but also by geography. Southern Nevada is home to more than 70 percent of the state's residents, but legislators from the mostly conservative sparsely populated areas also play a key role in working to ensure the rights and livelihoods of those who call the “cow counties” home are also understood and respected in Carson City.

As ever in an arid state made more parched by drought, water is a key issue. Pete says he expects a push to change longtime water rights rules to become an increasingly pressing matter as the session wears on. With urban areas seeking every accessible drop, any move to redefine water rights under a “highest and best use” doctrine could have substantial ramifications for rural residents.

In Nevada’s big outback, keeping up with transportation infrastructure needs is a never-ending struggle – especially with urban areas enjoying most of the funding clout. “Some of these secondary state routes that are so critical in the rural areas are starting to fall behind,” Pete says.

And while there’s an expected fight over future funding of Medicaid this session, the senator says the need for available medical care in some areas is past critical. So-called “tele-medicine,” a video link between a doctor and patient, is only a partial solution.

“It’s going to help, but you still have to have a provider at that location,” Pete says. “I don’t care whether you’re urban or rural, providers are hard to come by in this state.”

In his eighth session over 14 years that includes time in the Assembly, Pete has carved out a reputation as a reasonable conservative willing to compromise – something that doesn’t always sit well with some of his more fiery colleagues.

He fondly recalls the even-handedness of former colleagues John Carpenter, Mike McGinnis, and Randolph Townsend, among others, who practiced
politics but weren’t endlessly political creatures.

“I think in most cases with term limits, legislators are running more as a political stepping stone than really working for what’s good for the state of Nevada” says Pete.

That includes having reasoned discussions about the budget, which is projected to run into a multimillion-dollar shortfall. For his part, Gov. Brian Sandoval has asked department heads to provide a 5-percent budget reduction across the board in an effort to balance the overall budget.

“I think it’s going to be a long session,” Pete says. “I don’t see another tax hike coming out of the last session.” Even with a revenue windfall, “We’ll still have a hole in the budget, and I don’t know how we’re going to cover it right now.”

As a ranking member of the minority, the rancher-legislator admits, “We will be playing a lot of defense. We’re in the minority in both houses. I imagine we’ll spend plenty of time just trying to stop bad bills.”

That includes any legislation that threatens the state’s rural utility co-ops, which he believes are doing just fine outside the heavy shadow of the Public Utilities Commission.

In Senate District 14, which encompasses a wide swath of the state that includes Esmeralda, Humboldt and Pershing counties and parts of Nye and Washoe as well, Republican Don Gustavson makes good use of his career experience as a truck driver. There’s a lot of ground to cover, but he says it’s a sure bet that protecting and preserving water rights is a top issue with constituents who, “are worked up about losing their domestic wells. There are also concerns about the feds taking more of our federal land.”

Whether it’s the political controversy over the protection of the sage grouse or the best way of controlling predators and wild horses on the range, Don says rural Nevadans have different concerns than their counterparts in urban areas.”

But he says he believes no one is interested in pushing for a tax increase in the wake of the 2015 session.

“We’re in the minority, so pretty much my game plan is to basically be on the defense,” Don says. “There’s some offensive stuff both sides can agree with, but we want to be on the defensive.”

Like other conservative legislators interviewed for this story, Don remains concerned about the increasingly precarious future of the state’s fledgling Education Savings Accounts program. After watching the wheels come off in the 2014 election cycle, Nevada Democrats recovered in 2016 and entered the session as the majority party in both houses. That spells trouble for the constitutionally flawed ESA program that passed in the 2015 session as part of Gov. Sandoval’s billion-dollar public school overhaul.

Prior to the governor’s January 17 State of the State address, Democratic leaders made it clear they weren’t much interested in supporting the repair of the ESA. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford and Senate Education Committee Chairman Mo Denis, both of Las Vegas, called the issue “premature” and essentially a nonstarter.

The ESA program was declared unconstitutional last year by the state Supreme Court. Its flaw could be remedied legislatively, but only if the issue is heard.

While that figures to irritate conservative legislators and fire up the bellows of the anti-public education crowd, the governor kept a low profile on the matter in the run-up to the session.

But while top Democrats have stated publicly that they have other priorities during the session, the ESA issue backed by the popular governor could become a bargaining chip as the Legislature grinds toward its 120-day finish.

For fourth-generation Northern Nevada rancher and State Sen. James Settelmeyer, the protection of rural water rights will also be a high priority in the 2017 session. The Republican said interim legislative meetings on the issue produced impassioned pleas and “the largest turnout of people, it’s obviously a critical issue,” he said, noting that changes benefiting urban areas often come at a cost to rural Nevadans.

For many constituents, trapping and hunting issues, along with potential developments in the state’s currently sidetracked law mandating background checks for gun purchases, are areas of concern for many of rural residents.

On the issue of trapping, “Many weren’t necessarily pleased with changes in the trapping law, and we’ll try to reverse some of that legislation,” says James. “I think reasonable changes can be made. Residents in rural communities tend to view things differently than in metropolitan areas.”

James believes the Medicaid expansion associated with Obamacare, which he calls the “Unaffordable Care Act,” will have to be addressed to avoid a substantial cost to taxpayers. But he also admits that with the Democrats in the majority and the population and political clout concentrated in Southern Nevada, “They can pass through anything they want. They’re 72 percent of the population.”

John L. Smith is a longtime Nevada journalist and author. He was inducted into the New Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2016. Contact him at jlnevadasmith@gmail.com. On Twitter: @jlnevadasmith.
Stay Safe Around Power Lines

By Lara Petitclerc-Stokes

With the strong winter storm systems rolling through the area this time of year, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative would like to remind everyone to stay far away from downed power lines and anything touching them, including fallen trees, automobiles and yard equipment.

“While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case,” says Jeff Anderson, OTEC’s manager of safety and loss control. “Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

“It is important to know that downed power lines are extremely dangerous and to stay very far away. Tell children to immediately report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult and always assume that any power line is fully charged.”

Power lines on the ground should always be treated as if they are a live wire. If you see any wires on the ground, do not attempt to move or drive over them.

“When current is flowing from a downed power line into the earth, a high-voltage condition is created,” Jeff explains. “When faced with this emergency scenario, it is important to remain a safe distance away. Voltage can be radiating from the downed line into the ground. If you step too close, electrical voltage can come back up through the ground and electrify you. This is called ‘step potential.’”

If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, the best thing to do is to remain calm and not get out unless the vehicle is on fire.

“If you must exit because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time,” Jeff says. “Land with both feet together, maintain balance and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock.”

When getting ready to remove snow or other debris from rooftops, keep an eye on your surroundings and maintain a safe distance of at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.

“As a member-owned, nonprofit electric cooperative, OTEC offers public safety training to schools, emergency response organizations and government agencies.”

For more information, contact your local OTEC office or email Jeff Anderson at janderson@otecc.com.

When getting ready to remove snow or other debris from rooftops, keep an eye on your surroundings. Maintain a safe distance of at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.
Cold Weather = High Utility Bills

December and January have been two of the coldest months that we have experienced in many years!

It has been extremely cold outside! The ice and snow in December and January made for some really cold days and nights, and unfortunately that means your heating system was working overtime to try to heat your home. The average electric bills have more than doubled since November.

Please remember even though your heating system temperature may be set on the same degree setting, your system is having to work much harder to heat your home when temperatures outside are colder. When it is very cold like it has been in December and January, your heat may be running constantly to generate heat and circulate warm air throughout the home.

If you use a heat pump, it has to use auxiliary heat to maintain comfort when the outside temperatures approach freezing. The auxiliary system, whether it runs on fossil fuel or electric resistance heat, can add significantly to your home heating costs.

Some of the other reasons bills are higher this time of year: cooking more hot meals at home, using more hot water for showers and laundry, additional lighting with the shortest daylight days occurring in December, Christmas lights, additional people over for the holidays with extra cooking, and having the kids home all day during all those snow days. All of these have added up to some really big electric bills.

Please visit our website at clatskaniepud.com for some energy saving tips and information, or call our energy efficiency professionals at 503-728-2163.

Below is a chart of average heating days for the last three years. This shows the dramatic difference between November and December of 2016.
Click on the SmartHub logo on our website www.clatskaniepud.com to go directly to our Clatskanie PUD SmartHub login page.

Safe & Secure
Convenient & Easy to Use
Free App for Mobile Devices
Check Usage
Pay Your Bill
Update Your Phone Number

With SmartHub, the power of data is in your hands through convenient account management and detailed usage information. SmartHub, a mobile and Web app, delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your mobile device or on your PC. The two-way communication available with SmartHub allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about special offers, programs, events and more.

Download the FREE app today for secure account management right at your fingertips.

www.smarthubapp.com
Landlords Beware

Leaving a tenant's electric service in your name can be costly

Well-meaning landlords be warned: If you leave the electric service in your name for a tenant, it could cost you more than you bargained for.

If a tenant moves in and tells you, “LMUD won’t turn my power on,” there is a problem that needs to be resolved.

More than likely, the applicant owes money on a previous account or cannot pay the required deposit.

Leaving the service on in the landlord’s name may seem like a solution, but be aware of how it can affect your credit and your own ability to receive service.

If the account at your rental is in your name and goes delinquent, service may be terminated. Subsequently, the bad debt puts any current, active service in your name in jeopardy of disconnection. If you accept liability, you must ensure payment. If the account is not paid, you are not entitled to receive service—at your rental or anywhere, including your home.

Should the tenant leave without paying the account that was left in your name, your credit is affected—not the tenant’s. Not only are you liable for the bill, you are subject to paying a deposit to re-establish the service at your rental or any other new service—and your credit history with the utility is tarnished.

Another issue that may be raised by keeping service in your name is once you have provided service, how do you terminate service? Tenant’s rights laws may prevent you from turning off the utilities once your tenant has established residency. You could be legally obligated to continue to provide service, forcing you to leave the service on until you obtain a court order stating otherwise.

Unpaid utility bills often are several hundred dollars, especially in winter when heating fuel is expensive and electric heaters are an easy—though expensive—alternative heat source.

Protect yourself and your credit. Never assume utilities have been taken out of your name and transferred to the tenant. Set a date to disconnect the service before the tenant takes possession, or specify in a rental agreement the time when services must be transferred.

For more information on landlord agreements, service agreements and other customer service-related questions, please contact our office at (530) 257-4174 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or email us at cservice@lmud.org.
Tips to Save on Water Heating Costs

Hot water is a modern convenience most people could not live without. Did you know water heating is the second largest energy expense in your home after heating and cooling? It typically accounts for 18 percent of your utility bill.

Storage tank water heaters work constantly to keep water hot and ready whenever you want it. But as the water sits, it naturally cools down in a process known as standby heat loss. When the water cools, the burner or heating element kicks on to warm it again, in a constantly repeating cycle.

You can easily reduce the amount you spend on water heating by using less hot water and making the following simple adjustments to your unit.

- Reduce your water heater’s temperature to 120 F. Each 10 F reduction in water temperature will generally save 3 to 5 percent on your water heating costs. Lowering the thermostat not only will save energy, but it will increase the life of your water heater and reduce the risk of scalding. Before adjusting your water heater’s thermostat, cut off its power at the breaker. Consider hiring a professional if you are unsure of how to safely change your water heater’s temperature.
- Wash clothes with cold water. Laundry detergent works just as well, and you can save up to 40 cents per load.
- Shorten showers. A family of four showering five minutes a day uses 700 gallons of water each week—a three-year supply of drinking water for one person! By reducing shower time by a few minutes, you can save hundreds of gallons of hot water.
- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads. These are available at most home improvement stores and help reduce your hot water use. If you have older showerheads and faucets, consider replacing them now.
- Insulate hot water pipes. This will reduce losses as the hot water flows to your faucet. By insulating your pipes, water will arrive at the faucet 2 to 4 degrees warmer, which means you will not have to wait as long for it to heat up, thus saving energy, water and money. While this is not an expensive do-it-yourself project—6-foot-long, self-sealing sleeves ($2.50) easily slip over pipes—it could take effort, depending on where your hot water pipes are located. Exposed pipes in the basement are easy targets. Hard-to-reach pipes in crawl spaces or walls might be more difficult to tackle.

Open the drapes and let the sun shine through to naturally heat your home.

Use Energy Wisely

Improve Home Efficiency to Reduce Your Energy Bill

An energy-efficient home will keep you comfortable and save you money.

Whether you take simple steps or make larger investments to make your home more efficient, you will see lower energy bills. In time, those savings typically pay for the cost of improvements.

Your heating and cooling system is your largest energy expense, accounting for nearly half of your energy budget. To make the biggest difference in your energy bill, follow these simple energy strategies:

- Adjust the thermostat. This is the simplest way to save money on heating and cooling. You can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling simply by turning your thermostat back 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day. When you are home, set it to 68 F in the winter and 78 F in the summer.
- Buy a programmable thermostat. This offers even more control of your system.
- Leave the thermostat’s fan switch on “auto.” This makes the fan run only when the unit runs. Setting the fan to “on” causes it to run all the time, whether or not heating or cooling is needed.
- Seal cracks and gaps. Caulk and weatherstripping around windows, doors and

Escambia River

6 FEBRUARY 2017
Safety is a priority at Escambia River Electric Cooperative. Because most people spend eight hours or more at work five days a week, it is important to keep safety in mind as we go about our daily business.

Follow these tips from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to stay safe on the job.

### Preparing Trips and Falls
- Keep walkways and stairways free of cords, boxes and other materials.
- Place mats inside entrances.
- Regularly inspect carpeting for tears that can cause trips and falls.

### Fire Safety
- Store paper records in fire-resistant files or vaults.
- Be aware of fire extinguisher and fire-alarm placement, and know how to use both.
- Properly identify and store flammable and combustible materials.

### Electrical Hazards
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only properly maintained and approved equipment.
- Do not drag cords over nails, hooks or other sharp objects.

### Proper Use of Office Furniture
- Never use your chair as a ladder.
- Avoid leaning back in your chair with your feet on your desk or pushing yourself across the floor while sitting in your chair.
- Open only one file cabinet drawer at a time, and close it when done.

### Ladder Logistics
- Face the ladder when climbing up or down.
- Do not use the top of the ladder as a step.
- Use ladders only when in the fully open and locked position.
- Inspect the ladder before you use it to make sure it is in good condition.

### Keeping Your Office Safe
- Check hot water pipes for leaks. Leaky faucets not only drain your energy dollars, they increase electricity costs for heating wasted water.
- Turn off your water heater. If you plan to be away for an extended time, consider turning off your water heater. Even when you are not at home, your water heater uses energy to keep stored water warm.

### Reduce Your Energy Bill
- Siding prevents the loss of heated or cooled air.
- Cover up. Carpeting and rugs add to comfort and heat retention, especially if there is little or no floor insulation.
- Unblock it. Keep furniture, carpeting and curtains from blocking vents and air return ducts.
- Take it slow. Raise the temperature slowly to keep your bill lower. Quickly raising your heat pump's temperature activates the heat strip, which uses additional energy.
- Limit the use of portable space heaters. They are great for spot heating, but less efficient than heat pumps. If you use portable heaters, keep them away from flammable materials. Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Let the sun shine in. Open drapes during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Keep in the heat. Prevent cold drafts by closing attic, basement, garage and exterior doors.
- Change your filter. A dirty filter makes your heating system work harder, using more energy. Replace your disposable filter or clean your washable one every month. As a bonus, clean filters cut down on dust.

Using cold water laundry detergents will clean your clothes and help you reduce the amount of money spent on water heating.

- Leaky faucets not only drain your energy dollars, they increase electricity costs for heating wasted water.
- If you plan to be away for an extended time, consider turning off your water heater.
- Your water heater uses energy to keep stored water warm.

Keep it Safe

Check Your Office for Hazards

Cords in the walkway are a safety hazard that can cause a trip or fall.
Utilities Raise Awareness About Scams

Don’t fall victim to scammers, who come up with new tactics every day to try to take advantage of consumers

By Tracy Warren

When a scammer called Florida pet clinic operator Cindy Evers last year and demanded immediate payment on an overdue electric bill, it sounded real. “They knew my account number and gave me a figure that I owed that’s close to what I usually pay on my electric bill,” Cindy says.

She paid, even though—in the back of her mind—she knew her payment was not late. “I have pets under sedation, and I’m taking care of animals,” Cindy says. “I think I just panicked, thinking they were going to shut my electricity off. I did what they told me to do.”

The call was a scam. Cindy lost $900. She is not the only person to have been victimized. The scam that duped Cindy has been plaguing utility consumers across North America for several years, robbing them of millions.

Now, utilities are fighting back. More than 80 utilities and energy industry organizations from across the United States and Canada joined forces to recognize the first-ever North American Utilities United Against Scams Day on November 16, 2016.

Electric cooperatives have increased their communication efforts, sending information directly to members and encouraging local TV stations and newspapers to warn citizens about the scam, how it works and what people should do and not do if they are targeted.

Even the wariest consumers can be duped. Scammers develop new tactics every day.

The “past due” scam—similar to the one Cindy experienced—goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number.

Widely available spoofing software allows crooks to display what appears to be an official number on caller ID. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer does not pay.

But here is the giveaway: The crook will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order, and will ask for it within a specified time frame—often an hour or less.

The scammer may even quote an amount that sounds like your typical monthly bill. That way, the threat has more credibility.

Scammers might direct the customer to a specific store nearby that sells the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

Some scammers have even been bold enough to contact potential victims in person, coming to the member’s house.

If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.

Tips to Protect Yourself

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you do not know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts—especially those asking for your account information.
- Most utilities will NOT require their customers to buy prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
How You Can Help Thwart Scammers

Awareness is the first step to preventing you or someone you know from becoming a victim of scammers.

Here are two ways you can help spread the word:

- Alert your family members and friends. Share the scammers’ tactics described in this article and any other tactics you have heard about.
- Warn even those you do not know by reposting scam awareness information on social media. Use the hashtag #stopscams.
Never Been to Our Annual Meeting?

You don’t know what you are missing!

By Adam Schwartz

Do you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as by-law changes and, of course, have a chance to win great raffle prizes.

Glades Electric Cooperative’s Annual Meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors—or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the errands of life and more of our interactions with others are online via social media, we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections.

Few organizations are uniquely positioned like GEC to bring together all members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors—in part because we need to—it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone’s hand truly lifts the spirits of both parties.

Our country and community face many challenges. Our economy feels like it has been stagnant for years. Overcoming these challenges will only happen if we come together.

GEC’s annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your cooperative and the equally important business of building a real sense of community.

All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members.

We get out of life what we put into it. GEC is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. ■

Please Join Us

Glades Electric Cooperative’s 72nd Annual Meeting is Saturday, March 18. We are excited to host this year’s event at a new location: Moore Haven Middle-High School at 700 Terrier Pride Road. Registration opens at 8 a.m., with the business meeting beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, call GEC at (863) 946-6200.
Employees Complete Safety Course

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative employees recently completed a pole-top rescue course, which is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The purpose of this training is to teach employees how to save their co-workers in the event of accidental contact with an electric line. The course consisted of each employee “rescuing” a 150-pound dummy from the top of a pole. The employees learned the proper way to climb a pole, which tools were needed to rescue a co-worker and the type of knots to tie in the straps.

Top photo: Jason Curry, center, “rescues” the dummy from the top of a pole while Will Coatney, left, and T.J. Davis look on. Above, from left: David Syffret, Josh Pitts, Issac Madrid and Chad Brackin tie the appropriate knots in the strap to rescue the dummy. Right: Operations Manager Andy Dick, left, and Vice President of Operations Francis Hinson time employees, as Jason Curry looks on.

Photos by Kristin Evans