

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 21 No. 2

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Farmers' Electric Board of Trustees Appoints Nominating Committees

The Board of Trustees in their January 24, 2017 meeting appointed the 2017 Trustee Candidate Nominating Committees as follows:

District No. 3 (Fort Sumner), will meet at the Fort Sumner FEC office, Fort Sumner, NM, on February 16, 2017, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Guy Horney
Dave Weiland
Randal Mansell

District No. 5 (Tucumcari), will meet at K-Bob's Steakhouse, Tucumcari, NM, on February 15, 2016, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members:

Doyle Frazier
David Hale
Pablo Lopez

The Cooperative's Bylaws state, "A nominating committee consisting of three members from each district from which a trustee is to be elected shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees not less than 60 days (February 28, 2017) or more than 120 days (December 30, 2016) before the Annual Meeting. Each committee shall meet no less than 45 days (March 15, 2017) before the annual meeting and select one nominee for trustee from their district. The nomination shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative immediately following the committee meeting."

In order to be eligible to become or remain a trustee, a person must:

- (a) Be a member of the Cooperative.
- (b) Be a bona fide resident of his trustee district and a permanent occupant receiving electrical service from the Cooperative at his primary residential abode.
- (c) Not be in any way employed by a major supplier of electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative.
- (d) Not be employed by or have a close relative employed by the Cooperative in any position.

These Positions Are For Three-Year Terms

Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 3 or 5 wishing to be on the Annual Meeting ballot as a candidate, may do so by petition. Article IV, Section 3(d) reads: "Any fifty (50) members, in good standing with the Cooperative, residing in a district from which a trustee is to be elected may make nominations by petition for a trustee from that district, providing such nominating petition is filed in the principal office of the Cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting."

The filing deadline this year is April 7, 2017. If you have any questions, call Lance R. Adkins at 1-800-445-8541 or 762-4466 in Clovis.

Manager's Message...

Prepare for Wildfires

**Lance Adkins, GM**

Driving back from a road trip up north a few weeks back, we marveled at the number and size of tumbleweeds crossing the highway. Having experienced damaged paint, grill, and radiator from large tumbleweeds in the past, the pace of our progress home was slowed considerably. From our seat in the car the whole “world” looked alive as strong winds and abundant weeds combined to create quite the visual experience. While wind and weeds are usually less a concern at night, we had opted for daytime travel since a particular stretch of

road, between San Jon and Springer, is known to be frequented by deer, antelope, and the occasional elk after the sun goes down. An abundance of weeds also creates other challenges.

Rainfall this past summer continued to provide relief from the drought conditions our area has experienced over the past few years. Nature knows just how to utilize the scant rainfall during the growing season and produced a generous supply of grass and weeds, which are now dry, increasing the danger of wildfire. Over the past few weeks unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds have been a factor in several grass fires in our region. Another factor has been human activity, both intentional and unintentional, creating the initial “spark,” and then growing quickly out of control.

Fortunately, area firefighters were able to contain the fires and minimize the loss of property, though some outbuildings have been destroyed. Each year wildfire impacts many folks in our area; often we hear of considerable property loss, and tragically, lives have been lost in recent years. Wildfire is difficult to contain, pushed along by strong winds, while moving along a wide front. One large fire a few years back was measured at 20 miles in width, moving across the prairie almost as fast as the wind was blowing.

According to fire officials, one key to protecting property is to keep the area around our home and property mowed and cleared of brush and weeds. When looking for the cause of a fire, officials note that in most cases, fires are caused by people, carelessly disposing of fireplace ashes, burning weeds or trash, welding/cutting metal or even the barbecue grill. Several fires were attributed to hot exhaust from a car or truck driving through tall grass and weeds. A few years



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POWER SOURCE

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. Questions or article ideas should be directed to :
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It's Contest Time!

In an effort to promote the advantages of the hybrid heat pump water heater, Farmers' Electric Cooperative is having a contest to give away a Rudd/Rheem air-source, heat pump water heater!

The Rudd hybrid heat pump water heater has over TWICE the efficiency of standard electric water heaters! 200% efficient! It has the same connections as standard electric models, making installation fast and easy. The Rudd hybrid water heater works much like a refrigerator in reverse. The heat pump extracts heat from the warm air, intensifies the heat with a compressor, delivers the heat to the water, and exhausts the cooler air.

For best heat pump operation, the temperature in the location where the water heater is to be installed should average 40 degrees or above. Choose a warm installation site like an attic, garage, or basement. Because a heat pump tends to cool the area where it is located, any type of air-source heat pump will work more efficiently in a warm location. These water heaters will need 1,000 cubic feet of movable air space around it (approximately a 10 by 10 by 10 foot room or larger).

Because it is over twice as efficient as standard electric water heaters and carries a 2.0 Energy Factor (EF), the Ruud can heat your water for as little as \$286 per year. The user friendly touch pad allows the homeowner to select the water temperature range and choose the highest efficiency setting for their hot water demand. The Ruud hybrid is Energy Star rated.

Ok, enough about the Ruud hybrid! Now let's talk about the contest! If you are a homeowner and are living within the FEC service area, and want a chance at winning one of the coolest water heaters ever, sharpen your pencils and put on your thinking caps! We know it's been a while for some of you, but it's time to write a theme! In 300-500 words, write a paper entitled, "What Electricity Means to Me and My Family." These papers will be judged in-house by a panel of FEC employees. The winner gets a Rudd/Rheem hybrid water heater valued at \$1,200! Second and third place contestants will receive energy certificates valued at \$200 and \$125 respectively. Please see official contest rules in next column on the right.



Official Contest Rules

- No fees or purchase required to enter.
- The contest is open only to members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC).
- Entrants must be legal adults and legal residents of the state of New Mexico.
- Entrants must be homeowners and fully empowered to make home improvement decisions regarding their residents.
- Home must be located within the FEC service area.
- Area where water heater is located must have at least 1,000 cubic feet of moveable air. Ideally, it would be located in a garage, basement, or attic.
- FEC will allocate up to \$300 to install the water heater in the winning member's home.
- Entrants must submit an essay, 300-500 words, entitled, "What Electricity Means to Me and My Family."
- Entries must be received by midnight, February 28, 2017.
- Entries may be turned in at FEC's headquarters office in Clovis or branch offices in Santa Rosa or Fort Sumner. Entries may also be mailed to: FEC, Water Heater Contest, PO Box 550, Clovis, NM, 88102, or may be emailed to: thom@fecnm.org
- The winning entry will be selected by an FEC employee panel by March 15, 2017.
- All decisions are final.
- The winning member will be posted on our facebook page, will be announced in our Power Source newsletter, and on the enchantment back page.
- Winning entry will receive a Rudd/Rheem 50 gallon air-source heat pump electric water heater.
- The winning entrant will be responsible for installation of water heater, any hazardous material removal and abatement (e.g., asbestos), and any improvements needed to bring installation in compliance with existing building and mechanical codes, above \$300.
- The winning entrant will agree to allow FEC to use images and likenesses of the old and new water heaters, homeowners, and homeowner's name in promotional material and newsletters.
- Entrants agree to hold FEC, its officers, agents, employees, and board members harmless for any injuries, loss, or damages related to the contest.
- Employees of FEC, board members, and their family members are not eligible to participate in the contest.

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2016. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2016 through March 15, 2017, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2016. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion, por favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicio Humanos al 1-800-283-4465, para obtener informacion acerca del Programa de Asistencia de Energia (LIHEAP) para las personas con bajos recursos. Si usted califica para el Programa de Asistencia de Energia y no tiene su cuenta con saldo vencido ni tiene un acuerdo de pagos fijos, su servicio no sera desconectado.

WILDFIRES *from* PAGE 2

back we lost a service truck to exactly that, totally destroyed by fire.

Fire can also start by downed power lines and other damage caused as high wind events blow through the area. One recent fire damaged several power poles causing one to fall. When we received the initial call of a downed pole from firefighters we were also aware that we had not received any outage reports; the line was down and still energized.

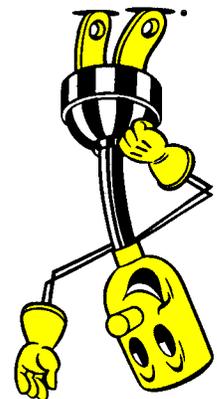
Wildfire, caused by nature or by human activity, has been a part of life in our area since the first settlers arrived. It is much easier for firefighters to protect homes and property if homeowners have taken ample precautions well before a fire begins by limiting fuel sources like brush and tall grass around your home and outbuildings. Area fire departments are on high alert and have several suggestions folks can take to reduce fire hazards around the home and property:

- Plastic containers are no good for ash removal. Even if the plastic trash can has a lid, hot embers can touch the side of the container and melt through. Ashes should be placed in a covered metal container and placed away from walls, papers, and other flammable materials until you are certain the ashes are cold.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning brush, garden debris, or grass. If state, county,

or community has issued a burn-ban, please obey it. To control your fire you will need a source of water and hand tools for making firebreaks and throwing dirt. If the wind is blowing or forecasted, don't start a fire!

- If your fire escapes or you see a wildfire, report it to your local fire department immediately; time is very important.
- Never store flammable material like firewood or lumber under or near your home. Keep it at least 100 feet away from the house.
- Be sure firefighters can identify the entrance to your property. Mark the drive with sturdy, easy-to-read signs with your name and address.
- Inspect outside electrical wiring. Old service wires that run to out-buildings can be a fire hazard. The old weather-proof covering on the wire may be worn away by trees or fall off over time, exposing the energized conductor. If exposed wires touch each other or a well-grounded object, they will spark. If the sparks fall on dry wood, brush or grass, a fire may result. If you suspect that your wiring is in poor condition have it inspected and repaired by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Remember, overhead High-Voltage power lines are NOT insulated. If you notice a broken pole, cross-arm or wire, notify Farmers' Electric immediately. A downed power line is a fire hazard and a safety hazard.

“Owned By Those We Serve”



FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
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