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POWER Source

January 2013 Vol. 17 No. 01

Scholarship Applications Available Now...

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Fort Sumner, or Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 762-4466 or (800) 445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 1, 2013! Contact Your Guidance Counselor Or Our Office Today!

This year there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "**Graduating High School Student Application**" or the "**Returning College Student - Non-Traditional Student Application.**" Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from the FEC website at www.fecnm.org.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals. Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2012, the foundation has awarded 885 scholarships totaling \$573,050.00.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Attention Parents!

How would up to \$10,000 in scholarship money for your high school Junior or Senior sound?

Through the use of video and social media, junior and senior high school students have a unique opportunity to showcase their creativity and compete for close to \$60,000 in scholarship dollars and grants. The Go Go Geo Scholarship Video Challenge was officially launched to schools on Jan. 7, 2013, however, more information is available via the contest website at www.GoGoGeoChallenge.com or click the link at www.fecnm.org.



The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives are the title sponsor for this event, with geothermal manufacturers, including ClimateMaster, Bosch and WaterFurnace, as co-sponsors.



Farmers Electric Co-op (FEC) is a member of this Touchstone Energy Cooperative alliance.

Eligible students will be challenged to use their creativity in the production of a one to three minute video. Seven message themes have been created for the contest, with each having a geothermal significance. Information on the contest website will offer participants a general understanding of each theme.

The Challenge will consist of a Regional Competition, which will divide contestants into five regions, based on zip code. The top winner from each region will advance to the Final Competition to compete for even more scholarship dollars. In the final level of competition, the five winners will meet with judges in Oklahoma City for the final scoring and winner announcement.

Any high school jun-

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*Manager's Message...***First Session: New Mexico's
51st Legislature***Lance Adkins, GM*

Now that the holiday season has passed, it is time to turn our attention to the first session of the 51st Legislature here in New Mexico. Readers will recall that in New Mexico each Legislature is divided into two legislative sessions, convening in regular sessions on the third Tuesday in January each year. Each Legislature will meet for sixty days in odd-numbered years and thirty days in even-numbered years. Those with a keen eye towards state politics are anxious to see how things get started. There are a large number of new legislators this session and a new Speaker of the

House. We expect a few key changes in the Senate as well, as a result of this past November election cycle.

Farmers' Electric is able to effectively participate in the legislative process individually and through our state association of electric cooperatives, the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA). On behalf of cooperative members across the state NMRECA tracks legislation that has potential to impact the cost members pay for electricity through additional taxation and regulation. We are already tracking a few proposed bills and expect an active session this year. Of note, two members of the Cooperative's Board of Trustees also serve in the legislature, Representative George Dodge of Santa Rosa and Senator Pat Woods of Broadview/Grady. I appreciate the commitment and determination of these two individuals and all those representing the citizens in the legislative process. I have had the opportunity to spend time in Santa Fe during past legislative sessions and I know the workload is tremendous. In addition, these elected officials serve on interim committees between regular sessions to study a variety of issues and are always available to meet with citizens in their home districts.



In New Mexico, all bills follow the same path through the legislature and unlike the U.S. Congress, a bill can be introduced in either the house or senate. Once introduced, the bill is assigned a number, read twice publicly, printed, and referred to the proper committee. Each bill is reviewed by one or more committees in each house where the committee can approve the bill, amend it, forward it to the next committee with no recommendation, or kill the bill by tabling it. All committee hearings are open to the public and folks are encouraged to participate in the legislative process.

Once a bill passes all committee hearings, it will be considered by the full house where it was introduced and scheduled for a final vote. If it passes, the bill moves to the other house and repeats the entire process and if approved in the same form, the bill goes to the governor to be signed or vetoed. If each house passes a different version of the bill, they form a conference committee to work on a compromise. If the committee agrees on a

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Board of Trustees:**Mike West***President***George Dodge***Vice President***Ernest Riley***Secretary-Treasurer***Paul Quintana***Trustee***Pat Woods***Trustee***Billy Tate***Trustee***Donnie Bidegain***Trustee***General Manager:****Lance R. Adkins****POWER SOURCE**

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. Questions or article ideas should be directed to :
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CONTEST from PAGE 1

ior or senior residing in Oklahoma or within the service territory of the four New Mexico cooperatives served by Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is eligible to participate. A list of eligible zip codes will be posted on the contest website. For team entries, scholarship funds will be distributed equally, if their entry is designated as the winner. Teams are limited to three members.

“What a fantastic opportunity for one of our local kids to earn a scholarship and help offset the rising costs associated with going to college,” said Thom Moore, Director of Member Services at FEC. “As a father of a college student, I understand the financial challenges facing parents these days,” Moore added. “This is a great time to not only learn about a very cool technology, but at the same time, compete for some much needed college money!”

“The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are excited to be partnering on this exciting project for high school juniors and seniors,” commented Mark Faulkenberry, WFEC’s manager, marketing and communication. “This contest could not come at a better time, due to potential pressures of rising utility costs in the near future. The advancement of geothermal technology is quickly making this option very viable for many homeowners, who may be interested in making a change before rates do increase,” he added.

Attention Juniors!

Youth Tour packets are due by the end of the business day on Friday, February 1! Contact your school counselor or FEC today for more information! You could win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

Attention

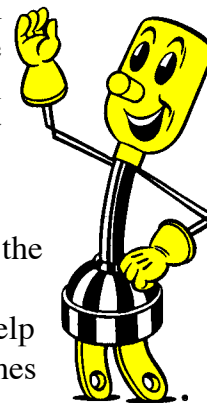
Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2012. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2012, through March 15, 2013, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2012. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2012, por el 15 de marzo de 2013, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

Ask Willie!

Q. Willie, can you clear something up for me? Over the holidays we had several large meals at the house and dirtied a bunch of dishes. We all got together and thought it could save water by washing them by hand. Tell me, which uses more, washing by hand or using the dishwasher?



A. Awesome question! However, not the simplest of answers...

Gathering family members to help you carefully wash and dry your dishes by hand is a great way to keep everyone together in the kitchen after a big supper/dinner. It can also be a big waste of hot water.

Cleaning dishes in the dishwasher typically uses about 35% less water than washing them by hand. The reason: Most of us run the hot water constantly while washing and rinsing plate after glass after casserole dish.

A tip: if you really want to keep that time as family time or want to teach your kids a little early work ethic, and if you have a divided sink, plug the drains and fill one side with warm, soapy water and the other with clear, hot rinse water, and then turn the faucet off. If you do the dishes this way, you will actually use half as much water cleaning your dishes than if you run the dishwasher.

If you do load the dishwasher, wait until it’s full to run it. If you have to rinse dried-on food from dishes before you stack them in the dishwasher, use cold water only.

Always opt for the “energy-saving” cycle when you run your dishwasher. Also, deactivate the “heated drying” cycle in favor of letting the dishes air-dry overnight. You’ll save up to 10% on dishwashing costs if you do.

Hope this helped! Now, put those kids to work!

Send your questions to:

Ask Willie
c/o Farmers Electric Co-op
PO Box 550
Clovis, NM 88102-0550

LEGISLATURE from **PAGE 2**

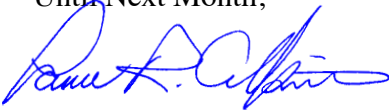
compromise, the bill goes back to the house and senate for a final vote.

Bills that pass both houses are formally prepared by the house where they originated, signed by the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate and forwarded to the governor. The governor can sign the bill, making it law; or veto the bill, or portions of it, if the bill contains an appropriation or financial commitment by the state. If the governor doesn't sign or veto the bill within three days and if the legislature is still in session, the bill automatically becomes law. If the legislature has adjourned, the governor has twenty days to sign the bill and unsigned bills are automatically vetoed after the appropriate amount of time has passed. However, the legislature can pass a bill over the governor's veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.

Signed bills typically become law 90 days after the legislature adjourns. If the legislature specifies an emergency, the bill becomes effective when the governor signs it or a later date as specified in the bill.

Folks who desire to follow the legislative process can track and read bills, follow committee activities and keep abreast of the daily calendar at the legislature's web site: www.nmlegis.gov.

Until Next Month,



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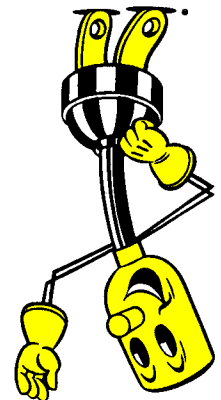
Light up your life – naturally

As the days start to get longer, take advantage of the extra sunlight to save on your lighting bill. Here are some tips:

- Open your shades or put your reading chair next to a window and leave the table lamp off until the sunlight fades.
- Clean your light fixtures and globes often. Bugs and dust can dull the light.
- Add lighting to your home's stairways to prevent accidents.
- Install light switches at the top and bottom of the staircase.
- Switch to three-way, adjustable light bulbs in areas where your family reads to allow each person to decide how bright to make the light. Those who require less light will use less energy.
- Plug in a few nightlights. They allow you to turn off lamps that use more energy when all you need is a glimpse of light.



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