

# FEC POWER Source

Vol. 19 No. 10

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## 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 1-800-445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

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 2015, the foundation has awarded 1039 scholarships totaling \$702,080.00.

### Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is **February 1, 2016!**

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](http://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.



### Youth Tour 2016!

In 2016, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors on the Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Please call 1-800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity!

### NO RUST. NO LEAKS. NO WORRIES.

Call Farmers' Electric Cooperative today to get special pricing on Rheem-Marathon electric water heaters!



1-800-445-8541

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## Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

## With Storms Comes Power Outages

I'm not sure that everyone is ready to say the three-years of severe drought are officially broken, but I think everyone can agree that our area has been truly blessed with moisture this year, well above our historical annual average. While the moisture is certainly appreciated, several of the storms have been severe, with considerable damage to lines and equipment, as well as damage to homes and businesses from high wind and hail. We have heard from several members who had difficulty calling in to report an outage. Outages affecting a large number of members create a

large volume of calls and can quickly overcome the number of inbound phone lines and personnel answering calls. In addition, after normal business hours and on weekends, the phones are answered by an answering service. In general, the answering service will have only one operator on duty to receive outage reports and dispatch service personnel. When there is a large volume of calls, as during an outage affecting a large number of members, the answering service will call in additional help.

*“There were a few storm situations where service trucks and equipment became stuck in the muddy conditions. We appreciate the members who came to our rescue in these cases and spent long hours working with our crews to keep equipment moving.”*

When members call in to report an outage they rarely have first-hand knowledge as to the cause of the outage. Folks may be surprised to learn that we rarely know the cause at the onset of an outage and are unable to predict restoration time until service personnel have determined the cause and steps necessary to complete repairs. Sometimes a member will call in to report specific information, like a downed pole or line, or something they saw that gives our service personnel important clues as to the cause. These reports help to reduce the length of the outage by reducing the time involved with locating the cause. While the information is very helpful, please remember to stay away from downed poles or lines. In one recent downed line that was reported, the line remained energized creating a very dangerous situation. Only the knowledge of quick acting folks at the scene, to stay away from the line and warn others to stay away, prevented a serious accident or fatality.

In one outage, service personnel discovered that a piece of construction equipment had been raised up into the high-voltage transmission line, damaging the conductor, and interrupting service to the community of Fort Sumner. Fortunately, no one was injured and service personnel were able to locate the source of the outage relatively quickly. If the individual(s) responsible for the damage had called to report the incident the outage time could have been reduced further. We also advise that if folks plan to be working in close proximity to power lines, including tree trimming, please contact our office so that we can make sure the area is safe for work.

Every year we have a number of outages caused by wildlife, usually birds, but occasionally snakes or other critters. One may wonder how a snake could end up on top of a pole or piece of equipment in a substation, but I can assure you, it does happen. Back in the spring, we had two separate incidents, in one particular substation, where a fox was

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### POWER SOURCE

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[www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org)

### To Report An Outage

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

**Clovis**

762-4466

**Fort Sumner**

355-2291

**Santa Rosa**

472-3971

**Toll Free**

1-800-445-8541

**STORMS** from PAGE 2

electrocuted on top of energized equipment. While a fox, or other wildlife, in a substation is a rare event, it is more likely to occur during the season when birds are nesting and critters are looking for a quick meal. Service personnel work to keep bird nests to a minimum through regular substation inspections and removing nests when found. In this particular incident, there was no nest but birds were likely roosting on the structure and attracted the attention of the fox.

There were a few storm situations where service trucks and equipment became stuck in the muddy conditions. We appreciate the members who came to our rescue in these cases and spent long hours working with our crews to keep equipment moving. We understand that outages are at best inconvenient, and can make business and farming operations more difficult. Our service personnel take a great deal of pride in their work and make every effort to prevent outages from occurring and restoring service as quickly as possible when they do occur. Our service personnel are also diligent in determining the cause of an outage to prevent a recurrence due to the same problem.

Until next month,


**Attention: Irrigation Consumers****Subject: Irrigation Annual Minimum Charges**

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's Irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative, based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account, please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 762-4466 or 1-800-445-8541.

**Ask Willie!**

**Q.** Quick Willie, give me 5 easy ways to save on my electric bills!

**A.** Oh, a challenge! I enjoy a challenge! Ready or not, here I go!



1. Clean or replace your central air system's filter. Replacing it once a month in the dusty climate in which we live in is not too often. Not only will your system work less, it will extend its life.
2. Replace incandescent lights with CFL or LED bulbs. CFLs and LEDs use only one-fourth or less of the energy of traditional light bulbs. Not only that, they can last much, much longer - LEDs as long as 20 years!
3. Set your water heater at 120 degrees. Besides saving energy, you'll protect your family from getting scalded by water that's too hot.
4. Wash your clothes in cold water. Ninety percent of the energy it takes to wash clothes is for heating the water. Cold-water detergents will get the dirt out.
5. Use the energy-saver settings on your refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes dryer, and washer.

Wow! That was way too easy...

If you have a question for Willie, write to him today! We may even use your question in our "Ask Willie" column.

Willie  
c/o Farmers Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 550  
Clovis, NM 88102-0550

**Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 12 hours a day, could add up to \$55 to your monthly electric bill!**



## Make Fright Night a Delight

Halloween is one of the happiest holidays for kids and their parents. Don't let it turn into a frightening experience because of outdoor safety hazards at your home.

Welcome trick-or-treaters to your door by making your yard and porch safe to visit. Here's how:

**Keep it clean.** Clutter can cause trouble when children are traipsing through your yard. Pick up rakes, power tools, tree branches, and anything else that could either trip or tempt young visitors.



**Keep the lights on.** Light a walking path to your front door. That will both direct the trick-or-treaters to the single spot at your house where you'd like them to be, and offer them a safe way to get there. Before October 31, replace all burned-out outdoor lights, and consider adding some more.

**Keep your message clear.** The best way to tell trick-or-treaters that you've run out of candy is to turn off all outdoor lights and most of the indoor ones. A dark house signals a parent to take the party elsewhere.

**Keep it simple.** Homeowners decorate nearly as much for Halloween as they do for Christmas. If your display includes outdoor lights, choose products rated for safety by Underwriters Laboratories. If you don't see a UL mark on the box that the lights come in, don't buy them. Every year before handing your outdoor decorations, check them all for defects and damage, which can cause a fire. And remember to turn off all lighted decorations when you are not at home.

### Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2015. 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, 2015, through March 15, 2016, 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 2015. 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 2015, por el 15 de marzo de 2016, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

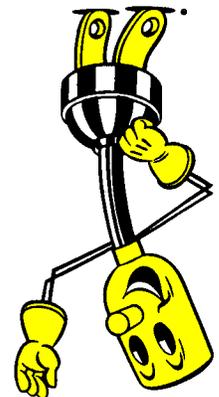
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