

# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **October 2024**

## Happy National Cooperative Month

### *Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose*

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Lake Region is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating **National Co-op Month**. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit utility created by the community it serves. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and competitive services, whether it's electricity or high-speed internet. With local employees and operations, we're well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of our members, both today and in the future.

Beyond the business of electricity and internet, our employees and board of trustees are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives, and additional programs that make our communities a better place to call home. 5269800

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of our Lake Region membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set local electric cooperatives apart from other companies.



*Some of our local employees powering your cooperative*

# LREC Energy Provider Energizes Future with New Oklahoma Power Plant

*Ensuring Reliable Power for Members in Peak Demand*

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI) is stepping up to meet rising energy demands by building a new natural gas power plant near Stillwater, Oklahoma. Named the Ripley Energy Center, the plant will boost grid reliability with an additional 420-445 MW of power, ensuring low-cost, dependable energy for members, especially during peak usage. The 160-acre site in Ripley, Oklahoma is the first of two natural gas facilities planned, with the second slated for Missouri, strengthening the cooperative's commitment to providing responsible and reliable power.



## This natural gas project will:

### ⚡ Generate safe and reliable power

Natural gas generation facilities can start up and shut down very quickly to meet fluctuating energy demand safely and efficiently. The planned facilities will operate as peaking units, providing energy when needed during peak energy use.

### ⚡ Protect reliability at the lowest possible cost

Natural gas offers a competitive fuel price thanks to Oklahoma's plentiful natural gas supply, enabling Associated to use the lowest-cost generation option available. Natural gas generation facilities are less costly to build, operate, maintain, and staff than other sources of reliable generation.

### ⚡ Reduce carbon, prepare for developing technologies

Natural gas is the cleanest of the fossil fuels, producing the least emissions of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter. In addition to natural gas, the combustion turbines will be capable of burning a blend of up to 30% hydrogen, a developing technology and zero-carbon resource.

### ⚡ Contribute positively to surrounding communities

Associated is committed to bettering its home communities and being a good steward of the land, air, and water. The new gas generation project will meet all environmental regulations while also enriching the area with new job opportunities during and after construction.

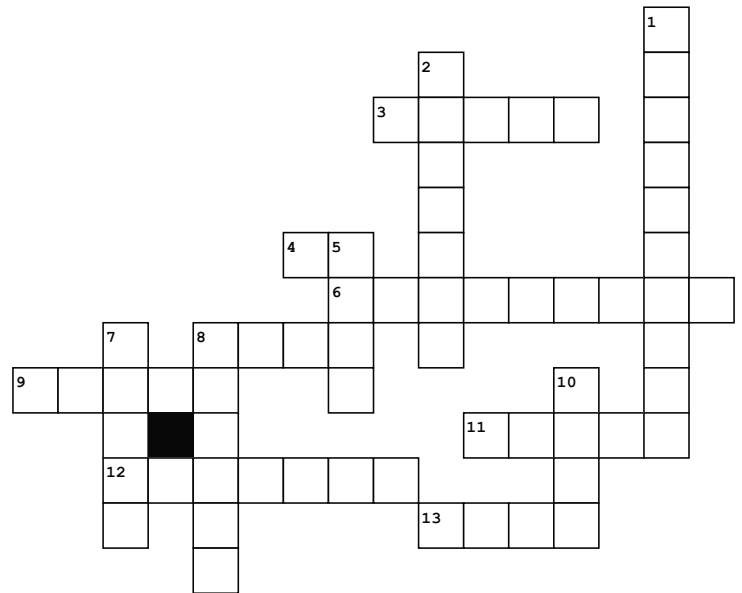
# ON THE HUNT FOR SAFETY

LREC's rights-of-way can provide attractive hunting grounds and easy passage, but they also contain our power lines, substations, and workers, day and night.

- ▶ Before you begin a hunt, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment. Dense trees can make them hard to see.
- ▶ Never shoot at power lines or electrical equipment.
- ▶ Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety.
- ▶ Never shoot nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system, which can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby.
- ▶ Before you shoot, be sure of your target and what's beyond it.

## Electricity Safety Outside

Solve the puzzle to learn about how to stay safe with electricity when you are outside this fall.

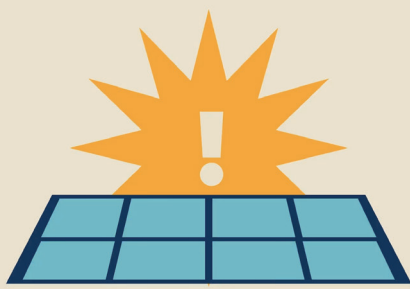


### Across

3. Never \_\_\_\_\_ an electrical appliance if you are wet; always dry off completely.
4. Look \_\_\_\_\_ and live. Be aware of the location of power lines.
6. Storm fronts can move rapidly, and \_\_\_\_\_ is a potential danger 10 miles in advance of a storm.
8. If electric wires in your neighborhood have sagged for some reason or a tree limb has pushed the line out of place, keep your neighborhood safe by alerting \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ and electricity never mix!
11. Stay away from the \_\_\_\_\_ connected to your house.
12. Never climb trees near power lines. They can \_\_\_\_\_ electricity if branches touch the wires.
13. Never climb a utility \_\_\_\_\_ or tower.

### Down

1. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ like radios away from pools and hot tubs.
2. Pad mounted transformers (those green metal boxes) carry high \_\_\_\_\_ electricity and are safe when locked, but they can be deadly if someone reaches inside.
5. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
7. If a kite gets \_\_\_\_\_ in a tree near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
8. Do not fly \_\_\_\_\_ or model planes near overhead power lines or electrical substations.
10. Do not seek shelter under a \_\_\_\_\_ during thunderstorms.



## Watch Out For Solar Scams

LREC has received reports that individuals allegedly in the solar power industry are visiting member homes, claiming to be affiliated with LREC, and exhibiting pushy behavior, such as demanding to view the member's electric bill.

While door-to-door sales is a common and legitimate business practice, LREC reminds members it does not partner with any home solar company and urges members to follow these tips to protect themselves from bad actors.

- ▶ **DON'T fall for pushy or too-good-to-be-true pitches.** Door-to-door salesmen may make bold claims such as, "this will eliminate your electric bill." Not only are these untrue but these tactics are meant to incite fear or convince individuals to sign contract.
- ▶ **DON'T sign any contracts to install solar generation before you call LREC.** Your best interests are our concern; some installers are only concerned with making a sale - not about you. LREC supports members' interest in home solar and will explain the co-op direct generation connection (DG) policy.
- ▶ **DON'T believe social media ads designed to trick you.** Social media ads often mimic the appearance of an article, exaggerate savings or the need for financing, or urge you to share your address, contact information, or utility bill.

Please call LREC first before purchasing solar at 918-772-2526 or [solarinfo@lrecok.coop](mailto:solarinfo@lrecok.coop)

### Your Board of Trustees

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 Jarrod Welch.....Director of Fiber & IT  
 Glen Clark .....Director of Marketing

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Telephone

800-364-LREC or  
918-772-2526

### Website:

[www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop)  
[www.lakeregionfiber.com](http://www.lakeregionfiber.com)

### Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &  
Tahlequah, OK.

### Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127  
Hulbert, OK 74441

### Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

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

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



## Don't Be Fooled By PHONE SCAMS

Scammers are targeting co-op members everywhere. They often call, threatening to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. They may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit. Do not provide financial info.

Many of these scam attempts play out like this: the caller poses as a LREC representative, says you are behind on the bill and a truck is on the way to disconnect your service unless you pay right now over the phone.

### DON'T FALL FOR THESE SCAMS

Any possible disconnection would be preceded by notice in the mail and we use a secure automated system for over the phone payments.

### DON'T GIVE OUT INFORMATION

Don't give our personal or financial information to anyone who calls claiming to be LREC, if you are not expecting a Lake Region call.

### CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT

Use Smarthub to check your account status. If in doubt, call us directly at 918-772-2526, not the phone number a scammer called from.