

Lindale High's Moore To Represent WCEC in Washington, DC

JACOB MOORE, A JUNIOR AT Lindale High School, won first place in Wood County Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour essay contest. As the winner, he will represent WCEC on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, June 10-19, in Washington, D.C. Moore was chosen by an independent judge for his essay, "How Wood County EC Improves My Community."

Moore, 17, is an Eagle Scout and a member of Lindale's varsity football and track teams. He is also a band member and plays percussion. When he is not busy with school and scouting, he enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, geology, woodworking, welding and reading. Moore is an honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society.

Upon graduation, Moore hopes to attend Tyler Junior College and then Texas A&M University to study geology. He is the son of John T. and Julie Moore of Lindale.

Moore will travel to Washington with about 120 other Youth Tour delegates from Texas cooperatives. They will ultimately join some 1,200 Youth Tour participants from across the country in Washington. Once there, they will tour the Smithsonian Institution museums, Washington National Cathedral, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, and other historical sites and memorials. They will also spend a day touring Capitol Hill and meeting congressional representatives.

"We are extremely proud of this program and the youth we sponsor to represent our cooperative members," said Debbie Robinson, Wood County's CEO and general manager. "Over the years, we've seen the positive impact this program has made in developing leadership skills that students will demonstrate throughout their careers and in life."



My grandfather grew up on a small farm west of Winnsboro in the Pleasant Grove community. He was born in 1927, and up until he was around 7 years old, their farm had no electricity. He has told me many times about how he remembers doing

homework by kerosene lantern and then "Aladdin" lamp.

Then they finally got the house wired, and one lightbulb was placed in their living room. He said it was so bright you couldn't look at it. They soon had wall outlets and were able to buy a refrigerator, a radio and a plug-in fan. When they first got the fan, he put it in his room with him and his brother. It was a hot summer night, but he says the fan worked too well and they had to cover up! He says that electricity completely changed rural life and improved how they lived.

Every day, in my house alone, we use massive amounts of electricity to run our lights, television, computers, refrigerators and water heater. Without electricity, life would not be the same. Many members

of my community depend on the services provided by Wood County Co-op in our homes, schools and businesses.

Wood County Co-op goes beyond simply providing electricity. They also support my community with educational programs, valuable scholarships and community charities and support. I am only a junior, but I know how much a scholarship can mean to someone, and every year Wood County Co-op gives out valuable scholarships to send good kids to school. These kids go to school to gain valuable knowledge and skills that they can use to improve their own community.

We also thoroughly enjoy their magazine every month, which is filled with local news, great articles and even recipes for my mom.

Wood County Co-op is also hardworking and dependable. Anytime my family has a problem, all we have to do is call and they send someone out to locate and fix it. Most of the time, they are already working on the problem when we call! Their commitment to excellent customer service is just another great benefit of being a Wood County Co-op customer.

Wood County Co-op is not only a local service company; they are a group of people that do their best to improve our community in any way they can. They have helped my family for close to 100 years and will come to provide for our community for many more.

How Wood County EC Improves My Community

Winning essay by Jacob Moore of Lindale High School

Electricity has taken our world from dark to light. From the time I was old enough to walk, I have heard stories of a time when there was no electricity. To this day, how an electric current passing through a filament can light our world, as simple as it is, is an astonishing thought. Hearing my grandfather's stories and seeing how my community revolves around electricity has brought me to realize how important Wood County Co-op is.

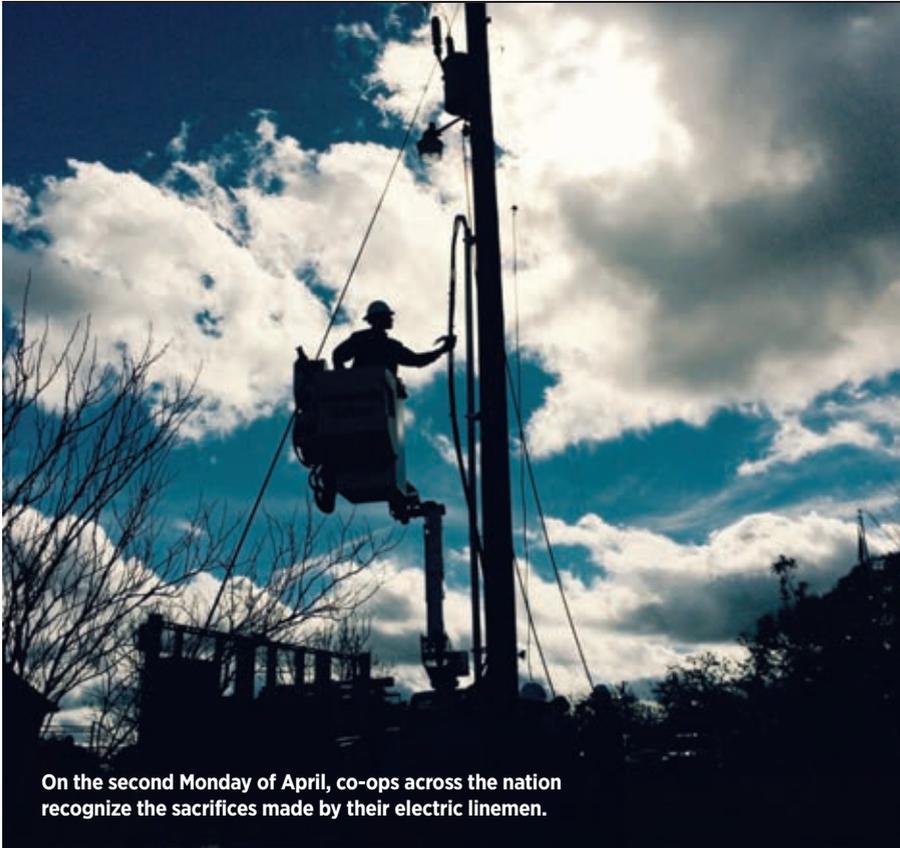


PHOTO BY BOB

On the second Monday of April, co-ops across the nation recognize the sacrifices made by their electric linemen.

National Lineman Appreciation Day

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DESIGNATED the second Monday of April each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day. To mark the occasion, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association unanimously adopted this resolution:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and; whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

“Therefore be it resolved that the NRECA recognizes the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day ... to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s electric cooperatives.”

As co-ops everywhere acknowledge all electric lineworkers, Debbie Robinson, Wood County Electric Cooperative’s CEO and general manager, joins them: “Our linemen, and all linemen for that matter, deserve recognition for their labors. They consistently work hard, but especially during unfavorable and challenging weather conditions. They are also called upon to respond at all hours. We are very proud of and grateful for our dedicated linemen. They well deserve this annual day of acknowledgment.”

On April 13 at WCEC, in tandem with this national effort, we’ll tell our linemen “Thanks.” But we want everyone to know they are appreciated each and every day.



Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827
Quitman, TX 75783

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*
- Dennis Wright, Vice President, *District 3*
- Lewis D. Young, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*
- Burke Bullock, *District 2*
- Brent Glenn, *District 4*
- Jane Roberson, *District 6*
- Cathy S. Roberts, *District 5*

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

- Monday**, First Methodist Church, *Van*
- Tuesday**, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*
- Wednesday**, City National Bank, *Hawkins*
- Thursday**, Brookshire’s, *Winnsboro*
- Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*



Contact Us

CALL US
(903) 763-2203

EMAIL
info@wcec.org

OUTAGE HOTLINE
1-866-415-2951

FIND US ON THE WEB
wcec.org

GEOTHERMAL VS. AIR-TO-AIR

Choose the Right Heat Pump

HEAT PUMPS ARE CONSIDERED one of the most energy-efficient products for heating and cooling today. They work by extracting heat found in the air or the ground outside and transferring that heat into or out of your home, based on whether you have selected to heat or cool the space.

No matter the type of heat pump, air-to-air or geothermal, it's important to note that the cooling and heating efficiency of a heat pump each have their own measure. The cooling efficiency measure is called the "Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating," or SEER, and the heating efficiency measure is called the "Heating Seasonal Performance Factor," or HSPF. The higher



There are tax incentives for homeowners who install a heat pump.

the SEER rating, the more efficient your unit will be in cooling air. And, the higher the HSPF, the more efficient it will be to generate warm air.

But it's also important to note that the colder the outside air becomes, the less efficient a heat pump is. That's because it becomes harder for it to draw warm air from cold air. During those times, heat pumps will often use backup auxiliary heat strips to warm the air, which require more power to operate.

And always remember that with any type of HVAC system, air leaks must be sealed, and the home must be properly insulated for the unit to achieve energy efficiency.

When selecting a heat pump, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Economic values vary for each building, and prefer-

ences vary for each individual making the decision. With numerous choices about energy efficiency and potential tax credits, even a knowledgeable consumer can find the decision difficult. An overview of the two types of heat pumps, air-to-air heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps, can help:

Geothermal

Geothermal heat pumps obtain their heat from the ground. Because the earth absorbs solar energy, keeping a constant 55 degrees even hundreds of feet underground, using that energy is efficient for heating or cooling your home.

To access that constant temperature, pipes and conduit are buried underground or submerged in a lake, pond or well. An antifreeze/water solution circulates inside these pipes, and a heat exchanger concentrates the gathered heat to release warm air inside the home. In summer the process is reversed, and heat inside a structure is transferred underground, where it is released. Geothermal systems not only provide comfortable temperatures, but they are also efficient water heaters.

However, the initial price of installing a geothermal pump is substantially more expensive than an air-to-air heat pump. To offset installation expenses, the IRS offers a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost.

Air-to-Air

An air-to-air heat pump absorbs heat from the atmosphere. Warmth is collected from outside air, concentrated and circulated inside in the winter, and the process is reversed in the summer to provide cool air to a building's interior. An air-to-air heat pump has an optimal temperature range of about 35–65 degrees.

If the outside air temperature varies far beyond optimal operating conditions, a backup furnace may be necessary to create enough heat to maintain a comfortable winter temperature inside the home. An air-to-air heat pump can be extremely efficient when the outside temperature does not vary much from optimal operating conditions and can save about 30–50 percent on heating and cooling bills.

As with geothermal heat pumps, there are incentives for homeowners to install air-to-air heat pumps.

Great Rebates

At Wood County EC, we want to help our members conserve energy and save on their bills. In addition to providing you information, we also offer financial help. WCEC members who decide a heat pump is right for them can also benefit from WCEC's Great Rebates program. Qualifying 15-SEER high-efficiency heat pumps can garner a \$300 rebate, and a 16-SEER can capture a \$500 rebate. The Great Rebate forms are available online at WCEC.org, under the Member Services tab.

Technology Lowers Energy Bills

CAN'T REMEMBER TO TURN the thermostat down at bedtime? Always forgetting to unplug your home's electronics before leaving on vacation? Technology can come to your rescue.

Automatic thermostats and smartphone apps can “remember” these tasks for you—and lower your energy bills in the process.

Consider these strategies:

▶ Installing a programmable thermostat that you can set just once so it will turn the heat down a few degrees (or the AC up) at bedtime and after everyone leaves the house in the morning. Those hours of slightly lower temps can save you a bundle on your heating and cooling bills.

▶ Investing in a new “learning” thermostat. These nifty devices collect data about your preferences every time you raise or lower your home's temperature. Then, it will start adjusting the thermostat accordingly—without being told to.

▶ Switching to a wireless thermostat that allows you to change the temperature via your computer or smartphone.

▶ Trying out an energy-management smartphone app. These free apps monitor your home's electricity use and share the info with easy-to-read graphics. The more you know about the way your family uses energy, the easier it is to change habits that waste it.



© ISTOCK.COM | GREGORBIESTER



Replacing your old power strip with an advanced one saves electricity and money.

Replace Power Strips

WHEN YOU LEAVE ELECTRONICS LIKE

TVs, computers and game consoles plugged in—even while turned off—they continue to use small amounts of electricity.

The new solution: Instead of plugging devices into a wall socket—or even into a regular power strip—plug them into an “advanced” power strip that blocks unused electronics from drawing electricity.

An advanced power strip looks just like your old one, but inside, it does so much more. In home entertainment centers and home office areas where many consumer electronics typically are plugged into a power strip, it works by preventing electronics from drawing power when they are not being used.

There are a variety of types of advanced power strips to fit people's needs. If you often fall asleep when watching TV, an advanced power strip with an activity monitor can turn everything off for you. Or if you are diligent about turning all your electronics off when you aren't using them but are concerned about the lingering power draw, a masterless advanced power strip can make sure everything is completely off.

By replacing your standard power strip with an advanced model, you can save energy and money.



Power Tip

New and improved lightbulbs can reduce your lighting energy use between 35 and 80 percent. Choose from an increasing number of energy-efficient halogen incandescents, CFLs and LEDs.

ISTOCKPHOTO | © CLARK AND COMPANY