

# *the* Messenger

December 2016

A monthly publication of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative

## NAEC returning more than \$1.2 million in capital credits

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative is returning more than \$1.2 million to members in December.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, NAEC returns any profits to members in the form of capital credits. Revenue that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is assigned back to members based on the amount of electricity used during the year. The NAEC Board of Directors reviews the cooperative's financial position each year and determines the amount of capital credits to refund. The amount of money members receive is based on how much electricity they used during the year or years that are refunded.

This year's capital credits retirement of approximately \$1.2 million represents 30 percent of the outstanding balance for 1995 and 5.3 percent of the outstanding balance for 2015. Capital credit checks will be mailed after Dec. 1. Members whose refund is less than \$50 will receive a credit on their December electric bill.

Throughout NAEC's 77-year history, more than \$29 million has been refunded to members.

### DID YOU KNOW?



**Electric co-ops have retired \$13.8 billion to members since 1988 — \$1 billion in 2015 alone.**

— National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

## Insulation improves home's comfort

Insulation's job is simple: keep the warm air inside when it is cold out and keep the cold air in when it is hot out. Beefing up your home's insulation can add up to significant savings over the course of a few years.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, areas that should be well-insulated include attics, ducts, crawlspace walls and floors or walls that are adjacent to unheated spaces (i.e., basements, garages).

Commonly used types include: rolls and batts, foam board, loose-fill, rigid foam and foam-in-place.

The level of insulation needed is dependent on the R-value, which is a measure of an insulating mate-

— Continued on back

## Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons — holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights.

Small measures can help control energy costs. These include turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water.

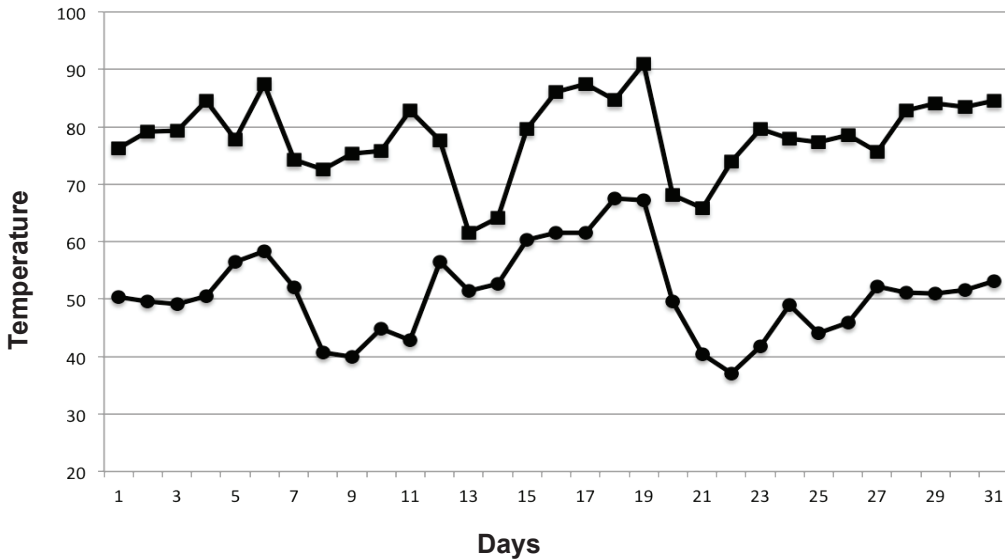
— TogetherWeSave.com

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Happy New Year!*

Co-op offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23; Monday, Dec. 26; and Monday, Jan. 2.

Crews will be on hand in the event of an outage. Please report an outage by calling 870-895-3221, 870-425-2141 or 870-994-2191 at any time.

# Daily Highs & Lows — October 2016



**Average Daily High:**  
78.3 compared to 72.2 in 2015

**Average Daily Low:**  
50.9 compared to 47.4 in 2015

**Total Rainfall Amount:**  
2.57" compared to 0.3" in 2015

**Warmest Day:**  
Oct. 19, 90.9 degrees at 2 p.m.

**Coollest Day:**  
Oct. 22, 37.1 degrees at 7:30 a.m.

## When I grow up ...



Grant Hyslip, lead line technician in the co-op's Ash Flat district, speaks to Cherokee Elementary School kindergarteners about his career. He and line technician Tim Thurman visited the school Oct. 27 as part of Red Ribbon Week.

## Right-of-Way Locations

West Tree Trim Crews:  
Buford, Gassville, Buffalo City

— Continued from front

rial's thermal resistance. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness.

Choosing insulation with the ideal R-value for your home depends on your local climate, where in your home you plan on installing the insulation, and several other factors. A local contractor can recommend the best fit for your home, or you can contact a trained NAEC energy adviser at 870-895-3221.

— EnergyEdCouncil.org

## Keep safety in mind when decking your halls

Don't let the bright and colorful sparkle of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating.

If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistant protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.

Never place your tree near to heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters, which can become fire hazards.

Any lights that are hung either inside or outside should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an

accredited independent testing laboratory. Also, make sure the lights are rated for the location in which they will be used — whether indoors or outside.

Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.

Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most. Be sure to check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use.

When decorating outside, make sure you and any equipment, such as a ladder or strand of lights, are a minimum of 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

— SafeElectricity.org



Choose an artificial tree made with fire resistant protection and replace any broken lights.