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mikeb@bentonrea.org

Is Your Power Out?

If your electricity is out for more than a few minutes...

Check your breaker box to see if a circuit breaker has tripped.

Then, check to see if your neighbors are without power.

Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or via the SmartHub app.

Co-op Youth Visit D.C.

More than 1,500 youth from cooperatives across the United States converged in Washington, D.C. June 7-14 for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)'s Youth Tour. Five students from Washington co-ops attended.

Nathan Cahoon and Taylor Smith, both of West Richland, represented Benton REA. Students from Tanner Electric Cooperative (TEC) in North Bend and Big Bend Electric Cooperative (BBEC) in Ritzville also attended.

While learning about electric cooperatives, leadership and patriotism, these students visited the many memorials and museums at the National Mall, enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Potomac River and met with their Washington state representatives

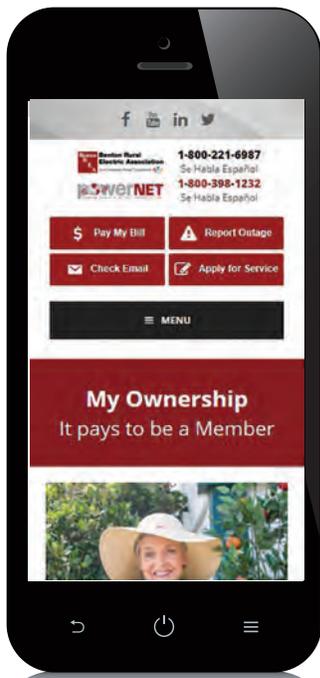


Nathan Cahoon, Israel Poulson (BBEC), Taylor Smith, Tashi Simpson (TEC) and Talmage Hales (BBEC) pose in front of the White House on the NRECA Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

and senators in their Washington, D.C. offices.

Nathan and Taylor's trip was funded through unclaimed capital credits. Find more photos

from their trip on Benton REA's Facebook page. To learn more about the Youth Tour and Benton REA's youth programs visit www.BentonREA.org/youth. ■



Website Recharged

Benton REA and PowerNET launched a new, combined website on June 12.

The new website allows members to login to SmartHub, check their PowerNET email, learn about co-op programs and get recent co-op news all from the home page.

Look to your bill insert for online bill-pay instructions.

www.BentonREA.org





Member Satisfaction Survey

Each year, Benton REA seeks to understand our members' satisfaction with the cooperative. Our members are the reason the co-op exists and we wish to meet your expectations in customer service, reliability and quality of service. One way to learn how Benton REA is perceived is through a survey.

A random sample of Benton REA members will receive a post card in July asking them to participate in a Benton REA satisfaction survey. Some members may also receive an email with the same request. Members who choose not to

complete the survey online may receive a phone call. On the call, members can answer questions based on their experiences with Benton REA.

The survey should take no longer than five minutes to complete either online or by phone. All responses will be anonymous and gathered by an agency hired by Benton REA to conduct the survey.

The results of the survey will give Benton REA an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score anywhere from one to 100.

"Knowing our ACSI score will help Benton REA better understand if we are meeting our members' expectations and set a benchmark that will help us improve our decision-making process in the future," said Mike Bradshaw, general manager of Benton REA. "I wish to thank our members in advance for participating in the survey and I look forward to hearing what you have to say."

For questions regarding the satisfaction survey, please contact Benton REA at 509-786-8265. ■



MORE THAN ONE VOICE. MANY.

How does Benton REA prevent problems? With my voice. I know my neighborhood. I keep an eye out for tree limbs growing too close to power lines. If I see something, I call 509-786-2913. You should, too. With our help, expert tree-trimming crews remove limbs or other hazards before damage is done.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

To learn how you and Benton REA are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit BentonREA.org.



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COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2913
Toll Free 1-800-221-6987
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen,
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2921
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Office Closed for Lunch Noon - 12:30 p.m.

www.BentonREA.org
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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office

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6th Graders and Benton REA Plant Trees for Cleaner Air



Left: Benton REA Board President Mike Freepons and students dig where a tree will be planted.



Right: Leona Libby 6th Graders, Science Teacher Debbie Ellefson, Benton REA staff and trustees stand by a tree they planted together.

Future students, parents and visitors of Leona Libby Middle School track events will breathe easier and stay cooler under four new trees planted by students and Benton REA trustees.

This spring, students in Mrs. Debbie Ellefson's 6th grade science classes researched the causes of climate change and the effects of added carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"They found that one of the causes of added carbon dioxide was deforestation," said Ellefson. "Students came to understand how important trees are in consuming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis, thus removing it from the air."

Several students from her classes had the idea of planting trees to serve as air filters.

On May 10, students from Mrs. Debbie Ellefson's class and Benton REA trustees dug the holes for two Conquest Maples and two Autumn Blaze Maples.

Area utility tree coordinator Brian Cramer said the trees will mature to about 45 feet and will provide shade for students and citizens at track meets.

"We planted the Conquest Maple because of its unique reddish-purple new foliage and bronze-orange fall color. The Autumn Blaze Maple has a brilliant orange-red fall color," he said.

Attending the tree-planting event with Cramer, Ellefson and the students were

Benton REA Trustees Mike Freepons and Connie Krull and Benton REA employees Troy Berglund, Kirk Henderson and Jeb Knox.

As a Tree Line USA utility, Benton REA proudly donates trees to parks, schools

and areas where its members will enjoy them for years to come. Tree Line USA promotes the dual goals of delivering safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community trees. If you know of a public area needing trees in 2019, contact Benton REA at 509-786-8265. ■

**JUNE 1 TO JULY 4 IS NATIONAL
FIREWORKS
SAFETY MONTH**

- 1. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from buildings and vehicles.**
- 2. Never carry fireworks in your pocket.**
- 3. Wear safety glasses whenever using fireworks.**
- 4. Always have water ready if you are shooting fireworks.**
- 5. Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.**
- 6. Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.**
- 7. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.**
- 8. Know and follow all local and state fireworks laws.**

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Each year, 3,800 people die from drowning. Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers. There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger. The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL- Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention