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Donate Blood August 18

Benton REA and the Prosser Holiday Inn Express & Suites will cosponsor a blood drive at the hotel August 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The American Red Cross continues to monitor the situation and is committed to operating blood drives in the safest way possible.

At each blood drive, Red Cross staff follow the highest standards of safety and infection control with these precautions:

- ▶ Checking the temperature of all staff, volunteers and

donors before they enter the blood drive. If anyone has a temperature greater than 99.5 degrees, they will not be allowed to enter.

- ▶ Wearing gloves throughout the drive and changing them often.

- ▶ Wearing facemasks according to CDC public guidelines.

- ▶ Enhancing disinfecting by asking donors to use hand sanitizer before and during the donation process.

- ▶ Allowing 6-feet between donor areas.

**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together**



All donors at the August 18 drive will receive a \$5 Amazon e-gift card from the Red Cross.

To schedule a donation, visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code BREA or call 509-781-6753. ■

Make The Call

What myths do you believe about safe digging?

Do you think calling 811 is only for digging? Do you believe since you called last year that calling again for a new project is a waste of time?

Think again.

No matter where or how deep you dig, always call 811 to know what's below. For more commonly believed myths about underground utility safety, see page 4. ■

Myth #1
811 is only for digging.

The definition of "normal farming practices" can be interpreted in many ways and varies between states. So, calling 811 before any digging project is always the safe thing to do!

Some agricultural examples of when to call 811 include: drain tile installation projects, chisel plowing, subsoiling, deep ripping, building a waterway, digging fence posts and drilling water or irrigation wells, just to name a few.






Pledge to Vote August 4

When was the last time you voted? Voter turnout in rural areas, like Eastern Washington, dropped 18% in 2012 but has since slowly been increasing.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program created by 900 electric cooperatives across America to boost voter turnout, ensuring our voices

are heard loud and clear everyday, especially on Election Day.

Washington's primary election is August 4. Be sure to take the pledge to become a co-op voter.

Visit www.vote.coop to learn more about the candidates on your ballot and to sign the pledge to become a co-op voter. ■



VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

5 MYTHS AND 5 FACTS ABOUT THE COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

KNOW THE FACTS!

MYTHS	FACTS
<p>1. THE DAMS ARE SALMON-KILLERS!</p>	<p>95%</p> <p>More than 95% of juvenile fish pass through each of the eight federal dams</p>
<p>2. THE ORCAS RELY HEAVILY ON SNAKE RIVER SALMON</p>	<p>The orcas' diet is dependent on fish from dozens of rivers</p>
<p>3. THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS AREN'T IMPORTANT TO POWER GENERATION</p>	<p>X 1.87 Million</p> <p>The Lower Snake River Dams alone provide enough clean energy to power 1.87 million homes</p>
<p>4. WIND AND SOLAR CAN REPLACE HYDROPOWER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TODAY</p>	<p>Wind and solar energy aren't as reliable and have shorter life spans than hydroelectric equipment</p>
<p>5. REMOVAL OF THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS WILL SAVE SALMON AND THE ORCA POPULATION</p>	<p>Salmon and orcas face a number of challenges, including sea lions, ocean acidification, underwater noise, water pollution, habitat loss and more</p>

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.
- Check to see if your neighbors have power.
- Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or use the SmartHub app.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th St. | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 West Van Giesen St.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Office Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Toll Free: 800-221-6987

www.BentonREA.org

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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is produced by the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Department:

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- Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
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\$80K Window Rebate Makes Energy-Efficient Upgrade Possible

If you live in or drive by Westview Garden Apartments on West Richland's 38th Avenue, you will notice new paint and new roofs. What you cannot see is residents enjoying lower electricity bills from their new, energy-efficient windows.

"The windows are awesome," says one apartment resident. "Our electric bill is down about \$30 a month and the windows do keep it cooler inside."

Starting in February, 323 double-pane metal-framed windows were replaced with low-e, vinyl-framed windows with a U-value of .30.

"Low-e stands for low emissivity," says Eric Miller, Benton REA's energy adviser. "A film is applied to the inside of the panes of glass designed to reflect solar heat back into the room in the winter, essentially trapping it. In the summer, it helps reflect the rays away from the window, keeping solar heat from penetrating the living space."

The vinyl framing also improves energy efficiency because it does not transfer cold air as aggressively as older metal frames. The trapped air space of the newer windows is much wider, significantly affecting the heat transfer through the glass.

The new windows are estimated to save about 88,281 kilowatt-hours per year among the 96 studio to three-bedroom apartments.

Residents are members of Benton REA and are already seeing lower utility bills since the completion of the window upgrade in May.

"I think they are fantastic," says one resident. "The electric seemed to be lower last month."



Property Manager Kari Kallio and Owner Don Winton accept a \$80,196 window rebate from Benton REA for upgrades to the Westview Gardens Apartments in West Richland.

Residents also see other benefits to the windows besides energy-savings and aesthetics.

"I love the new windows! It's so much quieter and it stays cooler longer in the morning," says another resident.

Don Winton has owned Westview Garden Apartments since December of 2019. He lives in the Seattle area but is investing in the Tri-Cities where he owns four properties with 350 total apartments.

"I like the area," says Don. "I thought that if [Westview Garden] were fixed up, it would be a nice property."

When Roberts Construction asked Benton REA about available rebates for the windows, the co-op was happy to incentivize the energy-saving project.

The upgrade earned Don a \$80,196 rebate—nearly 60% of the project cost.

"We wouldn't be able to afford all the new windows without the rebate," Don says. "That rebate was very, very crucial to us being able to do the windows."

Rebates Are Available To Qualifying Members

Benton REA window rebates are available to Benton REA home and business owners whose primary heat source is electricity and who replace metal framed windows that are single pane, single with storm or double pane, and sliding glass doors with ones that have a U-value of .30 or lower. You can receive \$2 to \$8 per square foot of glass you replace.

More information is available at BentonREA.org/rebates.

Please contact Benton REA prior to purchase and installation for a current list of qualified contractors and program requirements to ensure you receive the highest rebate available.

Contact Eric Miller at 509-781-6751 or memberservices@bentonrea.org. ■

New Window Type	Member Rebate
Windows with a U-value of .22 or lower	\$8/square foot
Windows with a U-value of .30 or lower	\$6/square foot
Sliding Glass Doors with a U-value of .35 or lower	\$6/square foot
Energy Star Storm Windows	\$2/square foot

Myth #2

I remember when the utilities were put in, and I've called 811 before.

The depth of pipelines and other utilities can change over time due to natural forces such as erosion or other dirt moving activities. Or perhaps new facilities were installed since the last time you called 811.

Please don't make a risky assumption. You don't want to be the neighbor in your community who knocks out the internet, cable, or other vital services such as 911.



Myth #3

I'm not digging very deep.

It is better to be safe than sorry even for a small project.

The One Call center will notify the proper utility companies so they can have an employee or representative come out and locate the approximate location of the utilities before you dig.



Myth #4

Calling 811 will cost me time and money.

Calling 811 is FREE to you. The cost is paid by utility companies to protect you, and calling 811 is fast!

After you call, professional locators will be sent to the site within two or three business days. Also, calling in advance while you are planning your project will help save you time.



Myth #5

If I hit a pipeline and nothing happens, there's nothing to worry about.

Even if it appears the utility isn't damaged, always call and notify the utility company.

Even a small dent, scrape, gouge or scratch in a pipeline, or other apparently minor damages, could cause a major problem in the future.

