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Last Call for 2018 Calendar Photos

It’s that time of year again. We invite you to share your beautiful, engaging photos with our readers by entering this year’s calendar photo contest. As many as 13 winners will be selected. Each winner will receive $100.

Submissions are accepted until July 21, 2017.

The contest is open only to members of Ruralite and Currents utilities.

Each person may submit up to two photos.

• Photographer’s name, address and telephone number where the photographer can be contacted.

• A short description of the photo.

• An email address and phone number where the calendar contest winners will be notified. Photos submitted by email are then printed in full color on high-quality paper. Entries are judged by the Ruralite Communication Committee.

Only digital JPEG photos will be accepted. Photos must be horizontal or landscape format and at least 300 dpi at 11 inches wide by 9 inches tall. Vertical photos and files larger than 15 megabytes will not be accepted.

Submissions should be sent to calendar@ruralite.org along with supporting information. Please put the words “2018 Calendar Photo Contest” in the subject line.

Each person with a photo in the calendar will receive a photo credit and five copies of the calendar.

Good luck and have fun! 

By entering the contest, you agree to give Ruralite one-time rights to publish your photo in the Ruralite calendar and to use it to promote the calendar contest in the future.

Helpful Hints:

• Use the highest resolution setting on your digital camera.

• Photograph beautiful places and wildlife. Selected photos will have dramatic colors or scenery.

• While cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C., are pretty, calendar photos should reflect the beauty of the areas where our Ruralite and Currents readers live.

• Submit photos that suggest a season or holiday.

• Avoid photos of pets.

• Pay attention to lighting. Just after sunrise and just before sunset are beautiful times to photograph.

• Make us laugh.

• See our FAQ online at www.ruralite.org/calendar.

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Inside

July 2017
Vol. 64, No. 7

Chasing the Thrill

Extreme sports offer a rush that keeps enthusiasts coming back for more.

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Your local utility pages: 4-5, 8, 25, 28-29, 32
Prepaid metering is as simple as it sounds: Consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires.

A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have $30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in $30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your $30 before the week is out.

By checking the gauge throughout the week, you become more prudent with your gas use and make informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Transfer that analogy to your account with Consumers Power Inc. With normal metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a shock. “How could I possibly have used so much electricity?”
Prepaid metering is designed to ease—and hopefully eliminate—that shock.

The components of a prepaid metering system are not too different from regular metering. Two extra pieces are required: a way to turn off the power when all your money is used and a way for Consumers Power to tell you how much you have left in your account. Think of this as your electricity “tank gauge.”

You have the prepaid metering equipment installed. Prepaid users often receive electricity use notifications through a smartphone app, emails, text messages and website. This 24/7 access to your account information through Consumers Power is called SmartHub. Through this portal, you can monitor your daily use and keep an eye for anything unusual.

You decide how often you want to buy electricity. Monthly? Weekly? Daily? You budget for a certain amount of power and pay the co-op. You can pay online, through the 24/7 phone payment system, the SmartHub app or by calling CPI during normal business hours. Your electricity tank is now full.

During the time you have paid for—imagine it is a week—you receive regular feedback on how much you have left in your tank.

As you approach empty, you add more money to your account and are set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off just like your car stops when it runs out of gas.

To complete the analogy, look at what you have been doing during the week. You become quite aware of how you use electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you do not cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is full before running it.

Industry studies show consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, what uses watts in your home, provides absolute control over how much you pay and helps you reduce your energy use. It is a tremendous way to power your life.

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**What is PrePay?**

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Utilities Let the Sun Shine In

As costs fall and technology improves, consumer-owned electric utilities look to incorporate solar energy

By Pamela A. Keene

Powering homes and businesses using solar energy is light-years closer to reality than it was just a decade ago. Costs are falling, technology is improving, and utilities are addressing the challenges and embracing the benefits of harnessing the power of the sun.

Tax incentives and government mandates are moving solar initiatives forward, with 42.4 gigawatts of solar installed in the United States as of 2016.

Consumer-owned utilities such as Umatilla Electric Cooperative are tackling solar adoption head-on. In early 2016, UEC energized its Moyer-Tolles Solar Array that can produce 1,264 kilowatts—enough to power 112 all-electric homes. The 6.5-acre array owned by the entire cooperative membership is situated on an 80-acre site east of Umatilla, Oregon. It is the company’s first full-scale solar generation plant.

“Currently, it’s producing one-tenth of 1 percent of what we provide to our members,” says UEC General Manager Robert Echenrode. “We’re aiming for 25 percent of our energy to come from renewable sources by 2025, most of it from solar.”

Anza Electric Cooperative—a Southern California utility—is building a 2-megawatt, 20-acre solar array in cooperation with its power provider, Arizona G&T Cooperatives.

“California has mandated that by 2020, 33 percent of our power come from renewable resources,” says Kevin Short, general manager of AEC. “When we add 2 more megawatts of panels on the same site in our second phase, renewable energy will be 15 to 18 percent of our total energy portfolio.”

Solar as a viable energy source came into vogue in the 1970s, with solar panels harnessing the sun to deliver electricity. In many ways, the sector advanced in much the same way as development of the computer.

“While solar technology took longer to evolve than computers, the parallels are evident,” says Dan Whitten, vice president of communications for the Solar Energy Industries Association, the Washington, D.C.-based trade association that tracks and monitors solar projects and regulations across the country.

It wasn’t until the past 10 years that government policies significantly supported the growth of solar technology, mandating adoption and providing financial incentives, he says.

“Since then, solar has been growing by orders of magnitude, providing tax credits for investing and offering alternatives to more common sources of electricity generation,” Whitten says. “The cost of solar has dropped by nearly 70 percent in the past five years thanks to technology advances in efficiency, scaled-up manufacturing and new materials. Industry developments and research over the past decade or so have made solar module production cheaper and more efficient.”

However, solar still provides less than 1 percent of electricity generation at utility-scale facilities in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Nationally, natural gas produces 34 percent, followed by coal at 31 percent and nuclear at 20 percent. Renewable sources—such as hydropower, wind and solar—account for 15 percent.

Whitten says solar is the largest new source of new capacity in the country, with more than 14.8 gigawatts of solar power built commercially in 2016—giving the U.S. enough solar to power 10 million homes a year.

His organization promotes expansion of the transmission grid so energy from utility-scale solar projects can be better integrated. For residential solar, homeowners’ ability to connect their solar system to the grid may determine whether solar is viable for them, Whitten says.

United States Photovoltaic Installation Forecast, 2010-2022

Source: GTM Research, provided courtesy of the Solar Energy Industries Association
“SEIA is working in state capitals across the country to improve interconnection standards to help make solar an option for more and more homeowners and businesses,” he notes.

Twenty-five states have at least one community solar project online, according to SEIA.

“Community solar is picking up speed, and there’s a lot in the pipeline, so it’ll be a mainstream driver of solar in the future,” Whitten says. “Rather than diluting the rooftop solar sector, community solar is making solar an option for renters, low-income residents and others who otherwise would not have access to clean energy.”

Umatilla’s program offers members a $500 incentive per kilowatt, capped at $5,000 per individual installation. Subscriptions are not offered and members do not pay a premium for having solar as part of the resource mix.

“Members have their own individual reasons for installing solar,” Echenrode says. “For UEC members, it is not primarily to save money on their current energy bills. Because UEC and Northwest energy rates are relatively low in comparison to other U.S. regions, there is a long payback for installing solar. As rates increase and the cost of solar installation decreases, saving money presumably will be a greater factor.”

AEC is working its solar program—called SunAnza—through Arizona G&T Cooperatives, which will sell the power generated.

“We’re helping supply energy on a part of our peak demand time, which reduces our import costs and further extends the lifetime of our existing infrastructure,” Short says. “We’re hoping to further leverage the solar installation with the addition of on-system storage to further assist in peak demand reduction and system reliability.”

As for economics, SunAnza is looking both internally and at how it markets energy to its members. Initially, it adopted state-mandated net metering, which is now at capacity. The project also includes a distributed generation rate to encompass more interactive connections with different financial parameters than net metering.

“We have no fees other than those associated with this program,” Short says.

“Interestingly, our new solar array is actually reducing our operating costs due to the lower per-megawatt-hour price of the energy and no compliance costs for greenhouse gas reductions.”

Short says AEC is developing a time-of-use rate, which will be implemented later this year.

Whitten predicts the U.S. solar industry will triple during the next five years, reaching more than 100 gigawatts of installed electric capacity nationwide.

“This would be enough to power tens of millions of homes,” he says. “As solar technology advances, costs will continue to decline, making solar cost-competitive or more affordable than other electricity sources. Solar may not work for all individuals, because of lack of adequate access to direct sunlight or other factors, but large-scale facilities that can generate and deliver loads consistently can certainly save money.”

Dillon Wanous, an apprentice lineman for Umatilla Electric Cooperative’s project, is dwarfed by the array of solar panels installed in early 2016. The 6.5-acre site in Eastern Oregon can produce up to 1,264 kilowatts.

Photo courtesy of Umatilla Electric Cooperative
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Wayne Breese of Prineville, Oregon, collects tractors and hit-and-miss engines. This 1939 John Deere model “L” he restored a few years ago and the 1930 John Deere 6-horsepower engine beside the tractor are just two pieces in his collection.

“My first—and favorite—tractor is a 1951 John Deere MC that my great-granddad bought new for the family ranch,” Wayne says. “I have mechanically restored it, but it has its original paint.”

Wayne says he enjoys history in general and antique equipment in particular. He says part of the fun is finding a project to restore, then locating the parts needed for the restoration. He also tries to preserve whatever story is behind each piece. Currently, he has five antique tractors and six hit-and-miss engines.

In 2015, Wayne was part of a group of collectors that started Central Oregon Antique Engine and Tractor Association.

“I’m fortunate that my wife enjoys the hobby as much as I do,” Wayne says. “We plan on attending several shows this summer.”

Rebuilding a Monument to Hikers

By Mike Teegarden

Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail is a bucket-list activity for long-distance hikers.

Since January 2016, visitors to the southern terminus of the PCT have been greeted by a new monument marking the trailhead. Pacific Crest Trail Association volunteer Mike Lewis of Anza, California, built the marker in his garage. He modeled it after the original monument installed in 1988.

The long and scenic path stretches 2,650 miles, from the U.S. border with Mexico to the U.S. border with Canada. It is a grueling adventure along the Sierra-Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges.

The monument project began in mid-2015 when PCTA Southern California Regional Representative Anitra Kass asked Mike if he could get the job done by the first of the year. After more
than 25 years of exposure to the harsh Southern California climate, the original marker—made of five 12-by-12 fir timbers—was falling apart.

A carpenter by trade, Mike had the skills, tools and patience to handle the task.

“I like doing that kind of stuff,” Mike says. “I love working on the trail. I like doing things that are out of the ordinary.”

Mike found detailed drawings of the original design in a museum and used them to recreate the same look. He made several trips to the marker—a 200-mile round trip from his home.

“I wanted to duplicate the original design,” says Mike. “I hand-built a jig for doing the lettering.”

That attention to detail continued with the marker placement. Most hikers begin their trek early in the morning, so Mike adjusted the angle of the marker so hikers posing for photos would have the best possible light and background.

Now that the project is done, there is talk of Mike building a new marker for the northern terminus. But he hopes he never has to replace the southern monument again.

“I have started a yearly maintenance program,” he says. “I’ve decided once a year I’m gonna go down there, fill the cracks and re-stain the top. The problem is the tops take a lot of abuse. People stand on them, sit on them, get their pictures taken.”

This isn’t Mike’s first volunteer project for PCTA. For the past 10 years, he has been a regular on the trail, much of the time hauling equipment to work sites with his pack mules through his work with the Trail Gorillas. Those days are sometimes 16 hours long.

To honor Mike for his work on the monument and the trail, PCTA awarded him the Alice Krueper Award in 2015.

By Dianna Troyer

Contrary to popular belief, pyrotechnicians do not always have the best seats for a fireworks show.

“You don’t even have time to look up,” says Linda Bingaman, who for years helped shoot shows manually as assistant fire chief in Carlin, Nevada. “It’s hectic and physically demanding.”

During the show, six firefighters work as an efficient team.

“Two of us fire the shells, then three reload behind us, and one person is a spotter to make sure each shell goes off,” she says. “Sometimes, one gets hung up.”

Pyrotechnicians learn to expect the unexpected.

In Rupert, Idaho, fire chief Roger Davis became a burning man one year when an ember fell on his back, setting him alight.

“A guy kept slapping me on the back,” recalls Roger. “I yelled and asked why he kept doing that. It melted part of the silver reflective stripe. It’s a dirty, hot job, so we wear our oldest turnout gear.”

Instead of shooting a show manually, West Wendover Fire Department in Nevada sets off an electronic show.

For three weeks, employees meticulously wire and check circuits for 1,100 fireworks, knowing their labor of love will go up in smoke and a kaleidoscope of colors in about 20 minutes.

“It’s a lot of work, but it’s worth it when you hear the applause and people cheering,” says Gary Corona, captain of the West Wendover Fire Department.

Roger says when the show ends, he hopes the crowd is satisfied.

“We want people to leave feeling like they haven’t seen anything like that before,” says Roger. “We want them to wonder what we’ll throw next year.”

The Show Behind the Curtain

Fourth of July fireworks pyrotechnicians get their satisfaction from crowds’ oohs and aahs
By Christopher Gaylord

By Christopher Gaylord

In the 12 years since Biff Hutchison began pushing the limits on a pogo stick, he has broken enough bones to average two every year. He has to pause for a moment just to count them up. After an inventory that includes fingers, toes, ankles and wrists—and a few bones broken more than once—the total comes to about 26.

It is enough to make anyone wonder why he continues to pogo at all. But Biff says no injury, no matter how severe, has ever made him think twice about his true passion.

“‘It’s always been, ‘How fast can I get back to doing what I love?’’” says Biff, who today is at the top of his game in the extreme pogo arena.

With multiple world records—including highest front flip on a pogo stick, at almost 10 feet, and highest overall jump—the 23-year-old from Burley, Idaho, ranks among the best in the world.

Roger Meader, general manager/CEO of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative in Oregon, is well acquainted with the risk of intense sports. It is a danger he faces every time his feet leave the ground for a flight underneath the massive,
bowed wings of his paraglider.

For the past 16 years, Roger has braved harsh winds at heights reaching 13,600 feet.

Roger and everyone he knows who paraglides has been hurt at least once. Years ago, the 62-year-old even lost a close friend to the sport.

“There’s a level of risk, no doubt about it,” says Roger, who, unlike Biff, is not well known in his chosen sport.

For him, paragliding is a weekend hobby.

But status does not always matter in the pursuit of extreme sports. In this world where danger stays close, fears are overcome and pain is pushed aside, it is all about the rush.

From casual hobbyists to dedicated professionals, participants share a common belief: The risk is worth the adrenaline and excitement that comes with testing physical boundaries.

**Origins Rooted in Necessity**

Activities that set the stage for today’s extreme sports world date back as far as 20,000 years, according to Ohio-based author Kelly Boyer Sagert.

In her book, “The Encyclopedia of Extreme Sports,” published in 2009, Kelly features a timeline of extreme sports precursors and milestones across the world that begins at 18,000 B.C., when people began crafting boomerangs.

Among more than 100 major events and markers in her timeline are the first known use of a parachute by one of ancient China’s legendary leaders, Emperor Shun, who died in 2185 B.C.; the acts of lava sledding in Hawaii and sandboarding in Egypt, both around 2,000 B.C.; the popularization of dragon boat racing in China more than 2,000 years ago; and the first uses of kite-powered canoes by Indonesian and Polynesian fishermen in the 12th century.

Many of the early-origin practices that launched what the world recognizes today as extreme sports emerged to fulfill basic survival needs, Kelly says.

Boomerangs were most likely used for hunting, while kite-powered canoes—and ice skating and cross-country skiing—allowed people to travel faster from one place to another, Kelly explains.

Eventually, activities such as throwing boomerangs and paddling kite-powered canoes either lost their necessity or became obsolete with new technology and advancements.

Then, the old way of doing things became fun.

She cites mountain climbing as an example.

For all of humanity, people who lived in mountainous regions or who needed to pass through such places climbed because they had to.

Fast forward to 1953, when Sir Edmund Hillary—a New Zealand mountaineer, explorer and philanthropist—became the first climber to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Around the same time, flying by plane had become rather commonplace.

“All of a sudden now, it’s not like something everybody did, and he didn’t have to do it,” Kelly says. “And it’s a little crazy to do it when you don’t have to. But that adds that kind of thrill.

“Most of us don’t want to do things we have to do. We want to do things we want to do.”

**The Mind of a Risk Taker**

What is different about those who seek thrill and enjoyment in doing what many consider terrifying and life-threatening? It is a question best answered by the field of psychology.

A moment trapped alone with a powerful and
angry monster of an animal does not match anyone’s idea of a good time—unless you are Derek Kolbaba. Derek’s description of riding a bull sounds like the stuff of most people’s worst nightmares.

But it is what he lives for.

“You’re kind of dancing with an 1,800-pound animal,” says the 21-year-old professional bull rider from Walla Walla, Washington. “There are no time-outs, and there is no stopping the bull.”

In professional bull riding, injury is not a matter of if, but when. Derek has broken his jaw—which has a couple of plates and screws in it—and his leg, which was put back together with four or five surgeries. He also has suffered multiple pulled groins.

Derek is still quick to call himself lucky. But not once has he let an injury—or the fear of one—faze him.

He says it is “part of loving what you do.” The intense rush of each ride atop a bull’s back is a large part of that.

“Your adrenaline’s going through the roof, your heart’s pumping,” Derek says. “There’s no other feeling like it in the world.”

Anita Cservenka, assistant professor with the School of Psychological Science at Oregon State University, has a bit of experience with the type of feeling Derek describes.

She has researched risk-taking and reward-seeking behaviors—particularly in adolescents—and says there are not only stark differences between extreme sports enthusiasts and other people, but differences clearly evident from a young age.

Anita proposes that people drawn to extreme sports likely have a different underlying neural structure, function or neurochemical transmission related to their motivation for rewarding feelings, resulting in a greater attraction to new or thrilling experiences.

These types of people also may have underactive neural responses to fearful situations, perhaps resulting from the part of the brain responsible for processing fear: the amygdala.

“Differences in the development of this brain region over the course of childhood or adolescence could be related to reduced fear response in individuals who become interested in extreme sports,” Anita says.

This means adults who take part in an extreme sport likely have a history with risky behavior.

The claim holds true for Biff, Roger and Derek. Biff did BMX and rock climbing before picking up pogo, Roger raced motorcycles as a kid and quickly gravitated toward fast cars, and Derek started riding bulls in early childhood, along with dirt bikes and snowmobiles.

The three are what some would call adrenaline junkies.

While these theories offer insight, they alone do not paint a complete picture.

Anita says thrill-seeking ultimately takes shape in
much the same way as other behavioral characteristics, starting with a genetic basis and changing along with hormones, environment, peer pressure and any number of other social factors.

It is the result of a combination of many influences from all aspects of person’s life.

But strip away the intricate principles of psychology and a simple, shared truth emerges among the many extreme sports communities that is common in most people everywhere: It feels good to reach new achievements—to accomplish new feats that are hard-earned.

The Excitement of Progression
For Tyler Aklestad, February 27, 2016, was 12 years in the making. Around noon that day, he and his teammate, Tyson Johnson, finished first in the Iron Dog—the world’s longest and most grueling snowmobile race.

Each year, the event puts dozens of two-man teams up against a fierce challenge: 2,031 miles across the unforgiving terrain of Alaska in temperatures well below freezing.

The pair finished in 35 hours, 35 minutes—the fastest time in the race’s 34-year history.

Tyler, who lives in Palmer, Alaska, grew up on a snowmobile. Tearing through the backcountry, snowmobiling was not only fun and exhilarating, but a way of life and a means to get around in places standard vehicles could not go.

The 31-year-old has raced since he was 16, and has competed in the Iron Dog every year since he was 18.

“Just finishing the race in its own was always a huge achievement,” says Tyler.

He took a terrifying fall through the ice with his snowmobile while crossing a frozen bay during an Iron Dog race a few years ago. If anything, the mishap only pushed him to work harder.

“Some people may see that as a failure to fall in the water and then be done with it,” Tyler says, who describes his Iron Dog win as the pinnacle of his professional achievement. “I always have chocked it up to what I can do better next time. It’s always striving to do it again—do it better.”


The power of achievement resonates in the world of extreme and adventure sports.

It is what Biff says drives him to get back on his pogo stick each day, in spite of any pain or failures.

“At the end of the day, it’s seeing how far you can push yourself—what you can kind of block out fear-wise, what you can commit to doing,” he says.

“I think what keeps pushing people—at least for me—is seeing how far I can take it and what I can do, and what we can create with a pogo stick. That’s kind of what keeps drawing me back.”

Share your extreme sport experience on Facebook @Ruralite and Twitter @RuraliteMag.
Recipes That Satisfy

**Watermelon in a Blanket**

12 crepes, pre-made or purchased
2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar
12 1-inch-by-8-inches seedless watermelon logs, drained to remove excess moisture
1 serving vanilla and lemon yogurt

Sprinkle one side of the crepes with cinnamon sugar. Place a watermelon log at the end of each. Roll them up and serve with yogurt for dipping.

**Steel-Cut Oats With Watermelon**

1 cup 1-percent milk
1 cup water
½ cup steel-cut oats
¾ cup diced seedless watermelon
2 tablespoons dried tart cherries or cranberries
2 tablespoons chopped pecans
2 tablespoons maple syrup
Additional milk, optional

In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring the milk and water to a gentle boil. Pour in the oats and stir. Return to a gentle boil, then reduce heat to simmer, stirring occasionally, for 20 to 30 minutes.

While oats are cooking, combine the watermelon, dried fruit, nuts and maple syrup in a small bowl.

Portion out the oats and top with the watermelon mixture. Add additional milk, if desired.

**Greek Pita Flatbread**

4 wedges seedless watermelon, cut into bite-size pieces
1 cup diced cooked chicken
1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
2 tablespoons Greek yogurt
¼ teaspoon garlic salt
Dash cayenne pepper
2 whole pita breads, halved, or whole-grain flatbreads
¼ cup prepared spreadable herb cheese
4 large lettuce leaves

Place sliced watermelon on paper towels to remove excess liquid. Mix chicken, cilantro, yogurt, garlic salt and cayenne. Spread inside surfaces of pita bread halves with herbed cheese, and fill each with about ¼ cup chicken mixture.

Arrange watermelon and lettuce in pita bread.

**Grilled Cheese Panini**

4 slices watermelon, approximately 4-inch-by-4-inch-by-½-inch thick
8 slices 100 percent whole-grain bread, preferably chewy in texture
2 tablespoons stone-ground mustard

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An unusual combo of sugary crepes and crisp watermelon is sure to appeal to youngsters of all ages.

Photos courtesy of National Watermelon Promotion Board

Sweet Summertime Watermelon
JULY 2017

17

6 ounces extra-sharp cheddar cheese, divided into 4 equal portions
1 1/2 cups baby arugula
Cooking spray

Place watermelon pieces between paper towels to absorb extra liquid. Set aside.

On each of four slices of bread, spread mustard and top with 1 1/2 ounces of cheese. Top with second slice of bread.

Spray cooking spray on a griddle, and grill the sandwiches on each side until cheese begins to melt. Remove from griddle, open and place a slice of watermelon and arugula. Close sandwich and cut in half. Serve.

Muffin Crumble Parfait

3 small bran muffins
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups fat-free vanilla yogurt
2 cups chopped seedless watermelon, well drained
1/2 cup toasted, sliced almonds
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup honey
4 cups small cubes of watermelon

crumb the muffins and divide among the bottom of four 12-ounce glasses, reserving about 1/4 cup of the crumble. Mix the cinnamon and yogurt, and divide half of it over the crumbled muffin in the glass.

Divide the watermelon and cranberries over the yogurt in the glasses. Divide the remaining yogurt over the watermelon and cranberries. Split the remaining muffin crumble over the glasses, and top with honey.

Garnish with toasted sliced almonds, and top with watermelon cubes.

Watermelon Pineapple Salsa

2 cups watermelon, cut in 1/2-inch cubes
2 cups pineapple, cut in 1/2-inch cubes
1/2 cup red onion, cut in 1/2-inch cubes
3 tablespoons cilantro, chopped
1 diced jalapeno pepper
1/4 cup lemon juice
Tabasco sauce, to taste
Salt and pepper, to taste
Granulated sugar, optional

Combine watermelon, pineapple, onion, cilantro and jalapeno pepper. Add lemon juice and season to taste with Tabasco sauce, pepper and salt.

If additional sweetness is desired, add a small amount of sugar. Cover and refrigerate until chilled.

Watermelon Rind Slaw

Dressing
1/4 cup fat-free plain Greek yogurt
1/4 cup low-fat sour cream
1 1/2 tablespoons stone-ground mustard
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon poppy seeds
2 teaspoons olive oil
Dash salt and pepper, to taste

Slaw
4 cups grated watermelon rind, with fruit and green peel removed
1 cup grated carrot
1 1/2 cups diced fresh pineapple

In a small bowl, blend dressing ingredients thoroughly. Set aside. Place watermelon rind on paper towels to soak up excess liquid. In a medium-sized bowl, place dressing, rind, carrot and pineapple. Toss to thoroughly coat. Serve.

Watermelon Raspberry Lemonade

6 cups watermelon chunks, seeds removed
1/4 cup raspberries
1 cup water
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup lemon juice

Place watermelon, raspberries and water in a blender. Cover and blend until smooth. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer into a pitcher.

Stir in sugar and lemon juice until sugar dissolves. Refrigerate until chilled.

Recipes courtesy of National Watermelon Promotion Board
Books
I wish to donate boxes of popular books, magazines and children’s books to a small library that needs them to stock their shelves. Will deliver within Oregon, and will gladly transport more if someone else in central Oregon also wants to donate books. I appreciate help with shipping costs outside of Oregon.

Bonnie Baker
P.O. Box 6441
Bend, OR 97708

I am looking for the book “When School Bells Rang: Schools of Benton County, Oregon,” by Marlene McDonald.

Randy Crowson
25023 E. Ingram Island Place
Monroe, Oregon 97456
rd64crow@gmail.com

Crafts
I would love to have any feathers you may find or have. I make jewelry and hair accessories with them. I like to give them away to people who admire mine and also to anyone who can use a little cheering up. Thank you.

Elizabeth Navetta
298 Smethwick Drive
Umpqua, OR 97486

Looking for a crocheted rag rug pattern that is round in the middle and has eight hearts around the outside edge. I made one from a Leisure Arts leaflet but lost the pattern. Thank you.

Lori Kropf
40577 Ritter Road
Ritter, OR 97856

Downsizing my sewing/craft room and willing to donate supplies (fabric, ribbon, buttons, beads, etc.) if you will pay postage. Send me a request for the types of items you could use and I’ll see if I have some I can give you. I will send pictures and shipping costs before sending you items to make sure it’s what you can use.

Janet Steigerwald
2788 Ian Court
Oakdale, CA 95361
proffvolunteer@aol.com

Odds
I am interested in old Sears, Montgomery Ward and Spiegel catalogs. I am willing to pay postage. Please let me know what you have. Thank you so much.

Kathleen Ahern
430 West Main
Pullman, WA 99163
kathleentahern@gmail.com

Does anyone have the 1,000 piece McDonald’s jigsaw puzzle with the large Ronald doll featured. I am willing to buy if complete with all the pieces. Thank you.

Betty Mercado
1820 E. 10th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
bettm@centurylink.net

Looking for wheels for Roadmaster red wagon. My granddaughter’s wagon has two broken wheels. I would like to replace them for her. Thank you.

Bill Newby
22 Graves Creek Road
P.O. Box 642
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

I am looking for pre-1970 printed materials about handcrafts, cooking and homemaking, such as The Workbasket, McCall’s, and similar magazines and pamphlets. I will pay reasonable price and postage. Thank you.

Laura Swift
1032 Yockey Road
Troy, ID 83871
lauraoswift@gmail.com

I am looking for crockery made by the Crock Shop of Santa Ana in the grape design. I will pay reasonable price and shipping costs, or pick up.

Diane Deal
74122 Riverview Lane
Irrigon, OR 97844
ddeal@msn.com

Recipes
Quite a few years ago I had asked readers to send me recipes using ramen noodles. It was great. I got many letters from people. Before I could get to trying out these recipes, we had a house fire. A big one. It destroyed almost everything we had. I was sad to lose all my new recipes. I am asking the readers to again send me recipes to use with ramen noodles.

Ginny Malmquist
2112 10th St.
Tillamook, OR 97141
chedrec@netscape.net

Schools/Labels
We are a small K-8 school in Anza, California, with just over 400 students. Please help us raise funds for field trips by sending us Box Tops. Thank you.

Hamilton K-8 School
57550 Mitchell Road
Anza, CA 92539

Thanks
Wow! What a surprise. My son who lives with autism has been busy making ornaments. Thanks so much for sending crafts to make. We appreciate your support.

Georgina McVay
Bay City, Oregon

I would like to send a big thank you to all the people who sent me the beautiful calendars for my craft project. Some I shared with friends, too.

D. Howell
Sandpoint, Idaho

At Home
Books, Hobbies, Crafts and More

Submitting Requests to At Home is Free
Please send your request to At Home, 5605 NE Elam Young Parkway, Hillsboro, OR 97124, or email it (no attachments) to athome@ruralite.org. Please fill in the subject line with At Home. Acceptance, scheduling and editing are at the editor’s discretion. Single requests only, please. No duplicates. Submissions are handled on a first-come basis. Phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will be published if part of the ad, but the request must include a postal address. Request must include name, address and name of the electric utility that provides your magazine.
The Designed For Seniors® Shower provides a lifetime of comfort and relief... safely and affordably.

As we age, the occasional aches and pains of everyday life become less and less occasional. Most of us are bothered by sore muscles, creaky joints and general fatigue as we go through the day— and it’s made worse by everything from exertion and stress to arthritis and a number of other ailments. Sure, there are pills and creams that claim to provide comfort, but there is only one 100% natural way to feel better... hydrotherapy. Now, there’s a better way. It’s called the Designed For Seniors® Shower, and it can truly change your life.

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– Chuck Clemons

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ITEM 62724

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Screwdriver Set</td>
<td>$799.99</td>
<td>$2700</td>
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**Customer Rating**

- Best Buy Winner
- 3 years in a row
- 6.13 hrs. run-time
- 420 CC engine
- 76 db Super Quiet
- Electric start

**SAVE $529.99**

**SUPER COUPON**

**20 TON SHOP PRESS**

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<td>Shop Press</td>
<td>$199.99</td>
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**Customer Rating**

- Pair of Arbor Plates Included
- "Compare at" price

**SAVE $799**

**SUPER COUPON**

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC**

**3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL**

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<td>62078</td>
<td>Air Hose Reel</td>
<td>$89.99</td>
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**Customer Rating**

- Threaded Swivel Fittings
- 3/8" I.D. x 50 ft. of 1/2" ID tubing
- Works with most 1/4" NPT air compressors
- "Compare at" price

**SAVE $59.77**

**SUPER COUPON**

**HARDY**

**POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES**

<table>
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<td>64645</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>$14.79</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Customer Rating**

- Powder-free nitrile
- Blue color
- "Compare at" price

**SAVE $2.80**

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Outdoor Pursuits

Enjoying the Natural World Around Us

Take the Bite Out of Summer

Local fishing guru, Pop, taught kids more than how to fish. He taught them a lot about bugs, too.

“Keep your mouth shut,” he told a girl complaining about mosquitoes one day. The other kids shut up immediately; they thought Pop was mad. It wasn’t until later they found out he was really teaching a lesson.

Mosquitoes find human targets by zeroing in on the carbon dioxide they expel. By minimizing talking, you make it harder for them to find you.

Pop’s broader lesson was to learn more about pests and use the knowledge to fight back against them.

Start by reducing the area of skin exposed to mosquitoes and other biting bugs. Wear long sleeves and long pants in heavily infested areas. Select light-colored clothing. Dark clothes actually attract bugs.

Go on offense with bug repellent. Products with DEET are the most effective. Use them sparingly and always follow instructions on the container.

Many people prefer natural repellents. Citronella oil and lemon eucalyptus oil are top choices. They repel mosquitoes, black flies and ticks. But they are only two of the many natural scents that bug bugs.

I remember Pop used to chew peppermint gum and shower beforehand using lavender-smelling soap. He claimed both scents repelled mosquitoes. I don’t know about that, but one thing’s for sure: Pop was the sweetest-smelling old gent on the river.

Three Quick and Easy Fishing Tackle Hacks

• Get hooked on neat. Keep hooks organized by threading them onto large safety pins.
• Prune your line. The last several feet of line on your reel takes a lot of abuse. Cut it off after each outing to eliminate nicks and potential weak spots caused by wear and tear.
• Dry up. Keep a small packet or two of silica gel or some other desiccant in your tacklebox. It will eliminate moisture that can wreak havoc on your gear over time.

Outdoor App of the Month—Leafsnap

Ever come across a tree and wonder what species it is? Leafsnap knows. The beauty of the Leafsnap tree identification app is its ability to identify trees by visual recognition. Users photograph tree leaves and Leafsnap matches the image to thousands of high-resolution images in its vast database.

This free app is currently available only for Apple devices, but an Android version is scheduled to be released soon.

What Makes July Special?

July is National Picnic Month.
July 3: Stay Out of the Sun Day.
July 20: Ugly Truck Day.
July 22: Hammock Day.

Show-and-Tell Time

Send us your favorite outdoor tip, photo or story. If selected for publication, we will send you $25 for one-time use of the item. When sending a photo, identify people and pets, and tell us the story behind the picture. Email your submission to info@ruralite.org.

Many of Curtis Condon’s fondest memories involve outdoor adventures with friends and family, whether fishing with old school buddies, backpacking in the mountains of the Northwest with his sons, or bird watching along the coast with his wife. He feels fortunate having the opportunity to write about the outdoors and other subjects for more than 30 years.

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Cooling a home on hot, humid days can be an energy-intensive process. In fact, cooling generally becomes the largest energy expense homeowners face during the summer. A room air conditioner may seem like an easy-to-install, low-cost way to add comfort, but it is easy to waste energy and money in the process if you are not careful.

A room air conditioner is an encased assembly—a self-contained box, basically—designed to be mounted in a window, through a wall or as a console. These units deliver conditioned air to an enclosed space or zone.

Costing between $100 and $1,000, room air conditioners can be bought at home improvement centers, big box retailers—even yard sales and flea markets. They tend to last a long time with minimal maintenance, so selecting the right model can save a significant amount of energy.

Room air conditioners rated by Energy Star, a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, deliver the same or better performance, and use 10 percent less energy on average than comparable models. An energy-efficiency ratio—the ratio of the cooling capacity in British thermal units per hour to the power input (in watts)—measures each unit’s efficiency. The higher the EER, the more efficient the air conditioner. National appliance standards require room air conditioners built after January 1, 2014, to have a minimum EER of 11.0 or greater.

Energy Star–qualified appliances boast advanced compressors, drawing more heat efficiently from the air. In addition, the high-efficiency motors in these devices use less energy to circulate air and run more quietly. However, they do cost slightly more.

Nationally, an average consumer saves approximately 76 kilowatt-hours per year—about $8—with an Energy Star-rated room air conditioner. Residents in hot and humid states could save up to $30 annually. Throughout the life of the appliance, a consumer could save between $50 and $250, depending on the model and climate.

Consumers should look for room air conditioners with timers and programmable thermostats. These features offer better temperature control, allowing users to cool spaces according to their preferences. For example, you can set the unit to turn on 20 minutes before bedtime to make your bedroom comfortable.

Installing a room air conditioner is typically an easy job. Most can be fit into a window in a matter of minutes. Another option is to create a custom opening in a wall.

Large-capacity units often require a dedicated electric circuit or may have specific wiring and breaker requirements. They may need to be installed by a professional.

Room air conditioners come in a variety of sizes. Many people buy the largest one they can afford, assuming more power is better. While that may be true in racing, it is not necessarily the case with an air conditioner. Units that are too large will cool a room too quickly to properly remove humidity, leaving the space feeling cool, but also wet and clammy.

Most room air conditioner purchases are impulse buys—bought during hot weather by consumers who have conducted little research. Most retail displays do not promote the benefits of Energy Star models. You should buy a unit from a knowledgeable retailer who will help you select the right size equipment for your room.

Consumers replacing an existing unit with a more efficient model should not immediately throw away the old one. Air conditioners contain a refrigerant that should be removed by a trained technician first. Contact a local solid waste organization for information on how to properly dispose of old air conditioners.

Air conditioning will raise your monthly electric bills, but what type you choose, climate and length of use determines the full impact. Making smart energy choices will leave you happier, cooler and with a couple of extra bucks in your pocket.
Automotive

1953 Chevy truck restoration project. Bed rusted out, windows intact, no dents. Must be hauled away, Toledo, Oregon. $1,500 firm. Call for pictures. (541) 875-2549. 0817

1966 Chevy 10 pickup, 64,000 miles. Body in good condition. Will need new wheels & tires. Has 2017 registration. $5,000. For more details, call (503) 257-6700. 0817

1967 Ford Thunderbird, 2 door, 390-V8, automatic, PW, PS, PB, AC. Rebuilt motor (machine shop), 1,500mi. New: tires, brakes, alternator, carburetor. Oregon. $8,000. (541) 506-6377. 0717

Business Opportunities

Established business for sale. 16-unit Delta Junction, Alaska, motel w/ large owner house. Turnkey ready. Owners retiring. Email manager@alaska7motel.com. 0817

Busy bowling alley, café, updated. Highway frontage, leagues, owner retiring, great fishing, hunting, sports, Clearwater River, turnkey. $400,000. Linda, Empire Realty, (208) 476-7633; lindadavis@orofino-id.com. 1017

Busy tire, parts, auto repair & glass business in Challis, Idaho, near the Salmon River. Way Out West Realty, Sande Hill, (208) 833-2211; wow1@custeri.net. 0717

Established woodworking business. 16,000sqft, shop, dehumidifier, metal working, powder coating equipment, offices & kitchen. 2.2ac. Industrial/commercial zone. Sandpoint, Idaho. idahowood@idahowood.com. 0717

Classic auto parts business for sale. Requires assembly & shipping skills. Comes w/inventory, website & injection molds. $550,000. Russ, (775) 764-1843. 0717

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Real Estate

East Fork Salmon River. 6ac, 3bdr, 2ba, garage, shop/barn, tashked, fenced, river, pipe, hay/pasture, hunting/fishing. Search Zillow.com, Clayston, Idaho. $318,000. (208) 838-2482. 0917

3bdr, 3½ba, 16ac, zoned RR2. Private horse trail, country feel, OSU nearby, 2-car garage, Oak Creek, concrete bridge, RV parking, timber. Corvallis, Oregon. $725,000. (360) 561-3334. 0817

Bonner County, Idaho. 20ac vacant land for sale. Remote off-grid living w/lots of wildlife. Info request, email Trippy518@hotmail.com. 0817

3bdr, 2ba, 2-car garage, manufactured home. Classified real property. Mature trees, fenced yard. 1.25ac. Pahump, Nevada. Some repairs needed. culyshaw@spcfreelance.com. 0717

468ac, $150,000. Beautiful, birch-covered agricultural land along the Chena River east of Fairbanks, Alaska. Great for moose hunting. Contact connie.dooley@gmail.com. 0717

79+ac, 15mi east of Christmas Valley. Paved hwy access. $39,900. Call Mark @ Berkshire Hathaway NW Real Estate. (541) 536-4418. 0717

3bdr, 2ba, 1 level + RV. 79+ac, 15mi east of Christmas Valley. Paved hwy access. $39,900. Call Mark @ Berkshire Hathaway NW Real Estate. (541) 536-4418. 0717

Florida property. 23ac on scenic river. 4bdr, 4ba, 4,000sqft. Lg variety citrus, fruit & nut trees. $690,000. For more info, call (907) 388-3327 or email sherrylensenak@gmail.com. 0717

Alsae, Oregon, Fudge Road home for sale. 1ac, great views, close to outdoor activities. 5bdr, 2+ba, 2,000sqft, outbuildings. $250,000. (541) 487-7232. 0917

New small summer cabin on 4+ac in Copper River Valley near Glennallen, Alaska. Electric, septic, water. Fantastic salmon fishing & hunting. $120,000. (907) 450-9812. 0717

Arizona ranch-style 5bdr, 2½ba, 1 level + RV shop 1½a + indoor swim spa w/sa. 285 N 1240 W, Pima, AZ 85543. (208) 413-1386. 0717

Two lots, 37ac & 38ac, in the White Mountains of Arizona between Snowflake & Concho. $25,000 each, or both for $45,000. Message phone, (775) 425-8931. 0717

New small summer cabin on 4+ac in Copper River Valley near Glennallen, Alaska. Electric, septic, water. Fantastic salmon fishing & hunting. $120,000. (907) 450-9812. 0717

Arctic Circle Hot Springs (Jewel of Alaska Hot Springs) is for sale. Needs much TLC, but the water still flows @ 400gpm, 134°. $1,800,000. (907) 590-1974. 0717

Books, Magazines, Videos

“Gilchrist, Oregon: The Model Company Town,” the nation’s most successful company town, 279$. Agincourt Research Services, P. O. Box 830, Gilchrist, OR 97737. (541) 815-1371; www.gilchristcompanytown.com. 1017

“Life & Death of Oregon ‘Cattle King’ Peter Gilchrist, 1849-1897: $15.95, includes shpg. New copies. www.edwardgraybooks.com; Amazon; Agincourt Research Services, P.O. Box 830, Gilchrist, OR 97737. 1017

Edward Gray’s “An Illustrated History of Early Northern Klamath County Oregon,” $38.95. Available on Amazon; www.edwardgraybooks.com. ARS, P.O. Box 830, Gilchrist, OR 97737. 0717

Real Estate

Established real estate property. Mature trees, fence, 1240 W, Pima, AZ 85543. (208) 413-1386. 0917

Limited liability company. Operated, owned & marketed by a corporation. 79ac, 15mi east of Christmas Valley. Paved hwy access. $39,900. Call Mark @ Berkshire Hathaway NW Real Estate. (541) 536-4418. 0717

Incredible 4,000sqft home. Lg variety citrus, fruit & nut trees. $690,000. For more info, call (907) 388-3327 or email sherrylensenak@gmail.com. 0717

Beautiful, birch-covered agricultural land along the Chena River east of Fairbanks, Alaska. Great for moose hunting. Contact connie.dooley@gmail.com. 0717

Households

Reach 340,000 households
Copper Center, Alaska. 3bdr, 2ba, 1,351sqft energy-efficient home. 2ac on a landing lake. $300,000. Additional 1ac lakefront w/30’x40’ shop adjoining. $100,000. aktaylors@gmail.com. 0717

Lakeview, Oregon, 265ac. Domestic water, septic, cabin, rocked roads, forested, 2 barns, lake, county road frontage, partly fenced, borders forest service, serene. $315,000. (541) 417-0996. 0717

Alsea River, Waldport, Oregon. 2bdr, 1ba, garage. 800sqft remodeled house on river. Covered boat house. Great fishing & bay crabbing. $135,000 cash. (530) 295-1001. 0717


Wavecatcher: Oceanfront, central Oregon coast. $140/night plus tax/cleaning; seventh free. 2bdr, sleeping loft, double beds. Full kitchen/bath, linens. Pet friendly. (541) 740-9953; wavecatcherbeachrentals.com. 0917

Lakeview, Oregon. 265ac. Domestic water, septic, cabin, rocked roads, forested, 2 barns, lake, county road frontage, partly fenced, borders forest service, serene. $315,000. (541) 417-0996. 0717

Lakeview, Oregon. 265ac. Domestic water, septic, cabin, rocked roads, forested, 2 barns, lake, county road frontage, partly fenced, borders forest service, serene. $315,000. (541) 417-0996. 0717

Situations Wanted
Caretaker, fire watch. Your RV. Free rent & utilities. Remote site w/hookups, great views. Klamath County, Oregon, wildlife refuge. Horses & dogs okay. (503) 702-1555; gordoncjones@gmail.com. 0717

Want to Buy
Gold, silver, coins/currency, buy, sell. Collections wanted. Fair prices paid. 35yrs in retail store. Baker City, Oregon. (800) 556-2133; bgands@eoni.com. Will travel. 0917

Collecting old American Indian baskets, blankets, beadwork, silver, old cowboy items. Great old American paintings of the West & East. Classic cars, trucks. (760) 409-3117; amer.ind.baskets@gmail.com. 0917

Old carpenter tools, planes (wood/metal), levels, chisels, slicks, adzes, axes, hatchets, handsaws, old rulers, spoke shaves, wrenches, shipwright tools, old tool chests. (503) 659-0009. 0717

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These make wonderful gifts or a great addition to your own collection. They are now on sale for $20 (originally $35), which includes shipping.

All individual cookbooks are available individually. Holiday Favorites, $8; Bread, $8; Casseroles, Seafood, Soups, Salads, Chili, Potluck, Desserts and Poultry at $6 each. All prices include shipping.

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As the old saying goes, it keeps showing up like a bad penny. In this case, it is a proposal to sell the Bonneville Power Administration’s massive transmission system to fund the federal government.

The idea now proposed by President Donald Trump first surfaced during the Ronald Reagan administration. It has resurfaced at different times since then under both Democratic and Republican administrations. The idea is equivalent to trillions of bad pennies and one we hope disappears once again.

BPA’s transmission system delivers electricity from the Columbia River system’s hydroelectric dams to Consumers Power Inc., Oregon’s electric cooperatives and every consumer-owned utility in the Northwest. All stand strongly against this idea.

Our region is not alone in this stance. BPA is one of three power marketing agencies, or PMAs, in the sights of the president’s budget.

Electric cooperatives across the country are equally alarmed because many are served by either the Tennessee Valley Authority in the Midwest or the Western Area Power Administration serving the Southwest. Those PMAs also would see their transmission systems sold.

“America’s electric
Cooperatives are deeply concerned about proposals in the budget that would undermine the vital power marketing administrations, "said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

More than 600 rural electric cooperatives in more than 30 states receive their electricity from a PMA.

They oppose "any effort that would negatively impact the PMAs and threaten co-op communities with potential rate increases and uncertainty," said Matheson.

The proposed BPA sale creates alarm for several reasons, including:

**Loss of regional control and value.** Northwest utilities continually work with BPA to modernize the transmission system. This challenge is best handled by those who know the system—both BPA and the utilities it serves. It also appears the value of the system would transfer from the people of the Northwest to the U.S. Treasury. Electricity consumers in the region have paid to build and maintain a system that would be sold to fund the federal government.

**Risk of increased costs to consumers.** Divesting the system would add great uncertainty and likely cause higher rates. Even if the system sold at cost—unlikely, since the president's objective is to raise money—the purchaser would expect a return on the investment. This would require a rate increase because BPA charges only to manage the system and recover the initial investment plus interest payments to the Treasury. BPA customers' equity also could be lost because there are many questions and challenges concerning how they would recover the investment they made in the BPA system through rates.

**Impact to remote areas.** New ownership would want to make the most from its investment. Remote, rural areas are more expensive to serve. Would they receive adequate maintenance or have stable rates? These major unknowns cause great concern over potential impacts to rural communities.

**Reliability of the integrated system.** BPA integrates power sales activities with the transmission system—an activity that requires balancing many different demands. Privatization threatens effective integration and, therefore, reliability.

**What's Next?** The proposal is just that. It is one part of a White House recommendation for a massive, complicated federal budget. It is acted on by both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, along with their respective committees and subcommittees. Congress ultimately sets the budget.

"I'm confident that the Northwest congressional delegation will stand unified against this part of the president's budget," said Central Electric President and CEO Dave Markham. "We will be sure to let them know very clearly that we are opposed to this proposal. We hope you will, too."

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**The Proposal**

Summary documents of the president's proposal show almost $5 billion attributed to the sale of the BPA transmission system. The sale would take place between 2018 and 2027, with $1.8 billion of the amount collected in 2019.

**What Can You Do to Help?**

Let your congressional representative know you oppose the sale of the Bonneville Power Administration's transmission system. Join our political grassroots network, ORECA-Action, and you can link directly to them through the Take Action function. Enroll at www.oreca-action.org through the Join Us link in the upper right corner.

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**BPA Facts**

- 300,000 square mile service area.
- 15,238 circuit-miles of transmission lines.
- 260 substations.
- 3,100 employees.
- 511 transmission customers.
- 31 federal hydroelectric projects provide power.
- 1 nuclear plant provides power.
- 2016 operating revenues of $3.4 billion.
- 2016 net revenues of $277.2 million.
Frogs Abound in Reader Pics

We are always looking for photos to feature in Parting Shot. We pay $25 for one-time use. Email a high-resolution digital version of your best shot to info@ruralite.org. Be sure to include the words Parting Shot in the header of the email. Or, mail a print or slide to Parting Shot, 5605 NE Elam Young Parkway, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

Claim jumpers. Above, four frogs jockey for position on one small lily pad. Photo submitted by Michele Ray of Lebanon, Oregon.

Croak us. Above, a frog convention. Who knew they are flower lovers? Photo submitted by Michael Cooper of Sisters, Oregon.

Microfauna. Left, Joshua marvels at a thimble-sized frog he found at Oregon’s Scott Lake. Photo submitted by Michele Ray.

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President’s Report

Pages 28 and 29 of this month’s Ruralite magazine features an article on one piece of President Donald Trump’s proposed budget, namely, the selling of the Bonneville Power Administration’s transmission system to help fund the federal government.

This idea was first proposed during the Reagan administration and has continued to resurface under both Republican and Democrat administrations since then.

Details on why this is a bad idea for the Northwest are well laid out in the article.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Oregon Congressmen Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici, along with Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, for joining other Northwest congressional leaders in their strong opposition to this idea. Seeing this type of bipartisan commitment against such proposals is helpful to the BPA and the region’s electricity customers.

Another Thank You

For years, the state of Oregon has been an outlier when it comes the Federal Columbia River Power System, insisting that it alone—through a risky plan to spill more water over the dams to push fish downstream—has the silver-bullet solution to improve salmon runs at federal projects. This is a plan that the best fisheries scientists say will actually hurt survival rates. At the same time, it will increase the cost of power and CO₂ emissions, neither of which is good for electricity customers or the environment.

We thank state Rep. Sherrie Sprenger for spearheading a bipartisan letter to Gov. Kate Brown in opposition to that plan, along with Representatives Andy Olson, Mike Nearman and 24 additional representatives who also signed the letter.

It’s Summertime!

Beautiful summertime weather means CPI crews are in full swing performing maintenance, making upgrades and building new electric lines throughout our service territory. For each of us, it also means it is time to accomplish all of those outdoor projects we have put off all winter.

This year, be sure to take some time to enjoy your surroundings. There are many wonderful places to visit in our local rural communities. Marys Peak, the Willamette and Marys rivers, local wineries, covered bridges, local farms, ranches and area restaurants are just a few of the delights our communities offer.

A great resource to help you decide on activities in rural Oregon is a tourism program called Oregon Country Trails. Learn about it at www.oregoncountrytrails.com. Now, put down the shovels and hedge trimmers and take some time this summer to enjoy beautiful Oregon!

Independence Day

Independence Day is a time for us to celebrate our founders’ adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, creating a great nation and establishing a vision of liberty and equality that continues today. This year, we express thanks for our blessings, and celebrate the principles of freedom and opportunity that our nation treasures.

On the Fourth of July, we are grateful for the blessings that freedom brings and the opportunities it provides. Happy Fourth of July to you and your families from all of us at CPI.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO