

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **March 2023**

10,000 ACTIVE SUBSCRIBERS

Taking High Speed Fiber Internet Where No One Else Will

Lake Region Technology & Communications (LRTC), subsidiary of Lake Region Electric Cooperative, announced that it had completed installations of its 10,000th subscriber.

Kelsey and Jared Applegate of the Peggs area received a 65-inch Smart TV prize for streaming video on their new Lake Region fiber connection.

LRTC connected its first customer in 2012 in Hulbert and has since made internet and phone service available to almost all Lake Region Electric members across its service territory.

“Most modern families need the capability to connect five or six devices at once,” said Larry Mattes, Lake Region Communications Specialist. “In this day and age, our members have come to expect that they can operate all their devices seamlessly at a great speed, and local customer support with Lake Region fiber.”

An electric company providing fiber internet services may seem outlandish to some. How can a company that delivers electricity offer internet and home phone service when these services do not even use the same equipment?

Having the proper infrastructure is one of the biggest obstacles utilities face when bringing service to a new area. Infrastructure includes the poles,



Left to right: Jared and Kelsey Applegate and Larry Mattes, LREC Communications Specialist

easements, and other equipment needed to get service from point A to point B. One benefit for Lake Region to become an internet provider was that LREC already had the poles necessary to hang fiber optic wire on. LREC started building internet in rural areas where other providers won't provide service.

“We have LREC for electric and were thrilled to see crews working on our lines, so we signed up shortly after seeing crews roughly a year ago. This is the first time we have had internet out here. We had a cellular hot spot during the COVID shutdown provided by our kids' school. However, it never worked well; all his videos were glitchy,” said Kelsey Applegate.

Kelsey and Jared Applegate and their family were

10,000th Subscriber Continues ▶

10,000th Subscriber

thrilled and confident that Lake Region's new service would be a game changer for their family.

"We have three kids, and they love Disney; we were never able to watch Disney+ before, besides on our small cell phone screens. Now we have this new TV and internet, and we will have many new opportunities. We also have an Xbox; my 8-year-old son and husband are thrilled they can now game online."

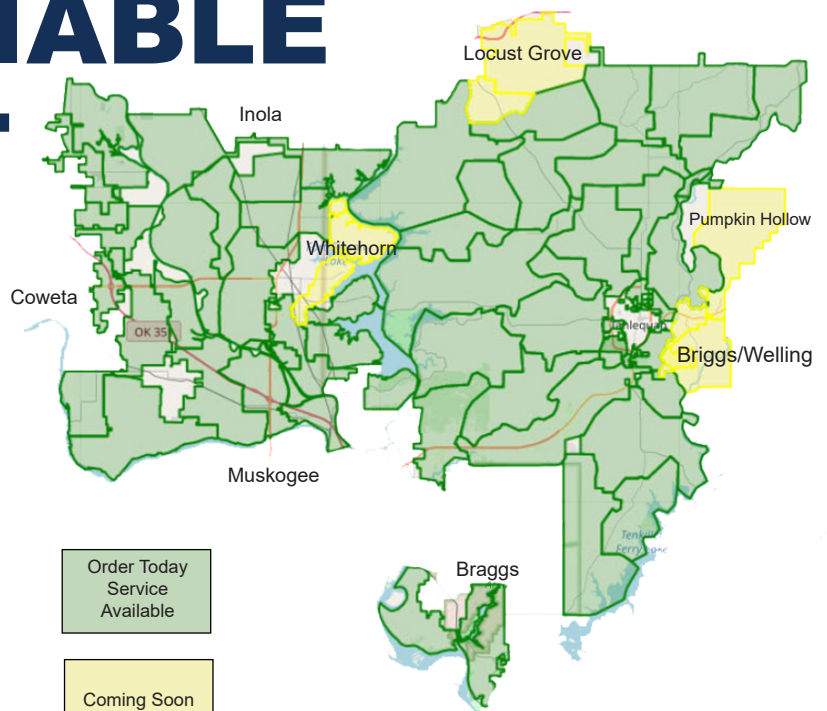
"We will also use the internet for telemedicine, as

we have doctors' visits we can now see via Zoom when we can't make it to the office," added Kelsey.

Lake Region prides itself on providing the type of connection the modern family needs. Our mission is to improve our subscribers' quality of life by safely delivering highly reliable, reasonably priced fiber services and exceptional customer service. We give you less to worry about, so you can focus on what's most important to you.

FAST, RELIABLE INTERNET

Lake Region's gigabit internet service is now available in more places than ever before, with more locations on the way. Now you can say goodbye to slow buffering and hello to having a fast and reliable local internet connection the whole family can count on.



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Member Spotlight - Lil Native Treats

Cakes, cookies, and other treats decorated in any way you can think of by Lil Native Treats is what Katelynn Whitekiller is known for around Hulbert. Katelynn started her treats business after taking an Indian Capital Technology Center (ICTC) class in cake decorating with her mom roughly four years ago.

"I didn't want to take the class, but I took it with her, so she wouldn't have to do it alone, and I loved it. Then two years ago, I received an order for decorated sugar cookies, which have since gained popularity. The cookies have become my favorite because I can use my creativity to decorate them. The customer will send me an idea, and I typically have creative freedom on cookie shapes and decorating. I have hundreds of cookie cutters for almost anything, and if I don't have it, I can get it," said Katelynn.

All Katelynn's baking and creating happen at her grandparents' house outside the town of Hulbert, on LREC lines. Lil Native Treats is excited and working to open a store in the summertime just off the main street in Hulbert.

"Our new storefront will have fresh sweets, bread, pies, and muffins available," added Katelynn.

Weekends can get busy with birthday parties, weddings, and baby showers. Katelynn suggested getting orders in early in the week, as she will do her prepping or dough and baking on Wednesday or Thursday. Then she will usually have all orders ready for pick up or delivery by Friday.



"As my business grows, I have had orders from Coweta, Pryor, and Stillwell, and I even started receiving orders from Oologah School. I can also print edible sugar sheet pictures and place them on cookies. I am looking at getting one of these in-house machines once I get a storefront open to print any image a customer may bring in. Stay tuned to Lil Native Treats, Facebook page for news about my business, and thank you to everyone who has ordered cookies or cakes and helped with word of mouth to friends and family," Katelynn added.

Be sure to follow Lil Native Treats on Facebook. Orders can be placed by contacting Katelynn through her Facebook page or calling her, (number is listed on the Facebook page.)



Cherokee County Shooting Sports Receives Grant

During the last quarterly Operation Round-Up grant meeting, the Cherokee County Shooting Sports Club was awarded \$3,450 to help with collared shirts and fees for competitions and practices.

The Cherokee County Shooting Sports is organized through the local Cherokee County 4-H and has four certified coaches, Janetta Rowan, Ted Kupsick, Kenney Secratt, and Jessica Secratt.

“These students are a group of really good kids that enjoy outdoor activity. We compete in 4-H shooting events, among others. Our kids range in age from 9 years old to high school,” said Jessica Secratt, Archery Coach.

The archery team practices at the Cherokee Nation Complex at different yardages, and the shotgun team practices at Oil Capital in Coweta and shoots both skeet and trap to practice at various ranges. The teams practice weekly and bi-weekly. Anyone interested in joining the Cherokee County Shooting Sports Club must be a 4-H member and have completed their hunter safety training. For Archery, students must be at least 9 years old and in the 3rd grade; for shotgun, students must be 10 years old. The Cherokee County Extension Office staff can help parents and students through the process of joining the team.

“Our teams did great last season. Trae Kupsick earned a 25-straight badge for

hitting 25 targets in a row in the trap, Trey Secratt won first overall in Junior Oklahoma 4-H for skeet and trap, and Connor Stamps placed 2nd in 4-H state outdoor intermediate archery FITA competition. The Junior archery team consisting of Trey Secratt, Mason Hamilton, Tanner Kupsick, Callen Havenar, and Ronnie Secratt placed 1st in FITA, Field, 3D, and overall in 4-H Oklahoma Archery last November. The kids all did really well and are looking forward to starting back here in 2023,” added Jessica Secratt, Archery Coach.



Grants from Operation Round-Up Foundation are made possible by LREC members who round up their monthly electric or fiber bills to the nearest dollar. These funds are put into the foundation, which distributes them to individuals and organizations throughout LREC’s seven-county service area.

The foundation board has fields of interest when approving grant money: healthcare, education, personal individual need, local non-profit organizations, and community purposes. For more information, download a grant application and see the impact the Operation Round-Up grants are making; 53500 view our website at: www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up

Application deadlines are on the 1st day of April, July, and October. Meetings will be held **April 26, July 26 and October 25** to review applications and select grant recipients. Operation Round Up is an easy way for LREC members to help their communities.

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative’s office in Hulbert.