

## Prepare in Advance For Winter Storms

Winter in southwest Oklahoma and north Texas brings with it the possibility of freezing rain and icy conditions. Ice on power lines can snap poles and bring down electric lines, especially when the ice is combined with wind.

Power outages sometimes result.

Whenever there are power outages, co-op members can be assured that linemen from SWRE and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, will be on the job, working to get power restored.

We all hope that this winter will not present icy conditions, but there are several things that we should remember to do, just in case.

### Download the SWRE App

If you have a smart phone or tablet, download the free SWRE app. For Apple devices, you can find it in the online Apple store. For Android devices, get it in the Android store.

Before setting up the app, you need to call SWRE at 1-800-256-7973 to verify that the co-op has the correct phone number, primary SSN, e-mail, etc. that you will use to set up your online account.

Once your account is set up, you can use the app to turn in an outage to SWRE and you can set alerts to verify that the co-op received your report.

### Be prepared

Be sure that you have flashlights in a convenient place, fresh batteries, candles and matches in case an outage leaves you in the dark.

Stock up on canned goods and other pantry items that don't require refrigeration.

Have warm clothing, gloves, blankets and comforters ready just in case they are needed.

And... Last but not least, post SWRE's telephone contact number (1-800-256-7973) in a central, easy-to-find location or put it in your cell phone contact list so that you'll have it when

### CEO's Report

## Simmons begins service as SWRE CEO

I'm still unpacking in my office at SWRE.

I arrived in mid-December from my previous co-op in Georgia, and I have been heartened by the welcome that has been extended to my wife Kim and me by SWRE's employees, board of trustees, and members. Everyone has been very nice. Kim and I were made to feel welcome right away.

My first official day as SWRE's CEO is January 4, but I have enjoyed spending time with retiring CEO Mike Hagy. Mike and I have worked together to ensure a smooth transition, and we plan to keep lines of communication open in coming months. I value Mike's experience and insights.

Both Kim and I are excited about our move to Texoma and we look forward to exploring all parts of the co-op's service territory, meeting new people, and settling in.



*Kenneth Simmons*

SWRE is a distinctive co-op that is unique because of its special mix of service to agriculture and ranching, oil production, and service to rural residents across its 11-county territory.

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you need it.

Along with the telephone number, write down your meter number(s).

### When the Power Goes Off

When an outage occurs, report your outage using the app OR call SWRE at 1-800-256-7973.

Never assume that the co-op knows about your outage. Always call to report it, just in case.

If many people are calling at once, it may take awhile to get through. Please be patient and keep calling.

When the SWRE operator answers, provide your name and meter number or be specific about where the outage is located. If you have more than one SWRE account, the co-op will need to know which one is affected.

Also, provide the telephone number that is the best place to reach you. We may already have your numbers on file, but often don't have the most recent cell number or location where you can be contacted.

### Where to Find Information

In major outages, SWRE will post information on the front main page at [www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com).

Similar information will also be posted at the SWRE Facebook page. You can find SWRE on Facebook at "Southwest Rural Electric".

SWRE members can also access an SWRE Outage map from the app or at the SWRE website to see the number and location of projected SWRE outages that exist at any given time.

# Simmons begins service as SWRE CEO

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SWRE is most notable by its service to two states.

Being in two states brings its own set of challenges, but it's one of the features that most attracted me to SWRE.

For 35 years I have worked with cooperatives in several states across the South, as both a consultant and employee. I'm looking forward to working with the state-wide associations in both Oklahoma and Texas, and with Western Farmers, SWRE's power provider.

## An Introduction

As members of SWRE, I know that you probably have questions about me, so I'd like to introduce myself. Let me tell you about myself and my family.

I am 54 years old, married with three children. My wife Kim and I have been married for 30 years.

Kim has worked for 18 years in the public school system, serving in various office and administrative roles.

Our oldest son Christopher is a police officer for the City of Forest Park, Georgia, and his wife Tori is a dental assistant. They are parents of our only grandchild. Our granddaughter Shay Marie was born last July.

Our daughter Jamie, our middle child, is an account manager at Randstad Corporate Services in Atlanta. Her husband Chris is an auditor for SunTrust Bank.

Sean, our youngest son, is a service advisor at Bellamy-Strickland Chevrolet in McDonough, Georgia.

Kim and I have been active members of Legacy Baptist Church in Dallas, Georgia.

Both Kim and I were born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

We both have a great love and passion for the outdoors. We enjoy hunting, fishing, sporting clays, and spending time with our family in the outdoors.

We also enjoy touring on our motorcycle and participating in community and charity rides. This is something that we have shared with both of our sons, who also ride.

I believe in community involvement. I have served on various boards, including for-profit businesses, non-profits, foundation and Chamber boards. I have been very active in the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce and the Paulding Education Board Foundation.

I am a Rotarian and am a Paul Harris Fellow.

## Co-op Career

My introduction to the cooperative world began in high school, with my first "real" job at Barbay Engineers. I started as a draftsman in the Utility Division, working exclusively with electric cooperatives.

It was through this exposure that I began to understand that cooperatives are wonderful, unique organizations. I learned about the sense of community in cooperatives,



*Kim and Ken Simmons*

and I learned about the cooperative principals that guide the operation of every co-op. I knew that this was the field that I wanted as a career.

I have spent more than 35 years working almost exclusively in and with electric cooperatives. My career has been a steady progression of increasing responsibilities and leadership roles.

More than 20 years of my experience has been at the senior administrative and management level, both as a consultant to cooperatives and as a co-op employee.

For many years I served as president/CEO of Utility Design Services, Inc., a utility consulting firm in Atlanta.

Since 2011 I have held the position of Manager of System Design for Carroll Electric Membership Cooperative in Carrollton, Georgia.

That's the professional road that brings me to Southwest Rural Electric.

Kim and I are in the process of establishing our new home in Oklahoma and completing the move from Georgia.

I look forward to exploring the communities in this area and meeting co-op members. I'm excited about being a part of the SWRE organization.

**Kenneth E. Simmons**



**Service Awards Presented**

**SWRE employees and trustee cited for years of service to cooperative**

SWRE employees and board members have been recognized for years of service to the co-op.

Awards for five, 10, 15, and other service increments of five years are traditionally given annually in December.

This year's awards were presented at an employee luncheon that was held at co-op headquarters in Tipton on December 15.

The honorees and their years of service are as follows:



Aaron Paxton      Joe Wynn      Jonnie Partida      Carl Brockriede

Aaron Paxton, chief financial officer, five years; Joe Wynn, communications specialist, 10 years; Jonnie Partida, cashier, 15 years.

Carl Brockriede, SWRE board member representing District 8, was recognized for 35 years of service.

**Simple steps keep home warm in winter**

There are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency while keeping your home warm this winter.

Examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weather-strip as needed to seal in warm air.

Examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts.

During the day, open curtains or

drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close them at night.

Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. This small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

**What's Cookin' in the SWRE Kitchen**

*Crispy Tiger Stripe Fudge*

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 (11 oz) pkg white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips
- 3/4 cup crispy rice cereal
- 1/2 cup peanut butter



1. Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper or aluminum foil.
2. Place semisweet chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave until melted, about 1 minute. Stir chocolate until smooth.
3. Combine white chocolate chips and butterscotch chips in a separate microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave for 1-1/2 minutes. Stir mixture until smooth. If chips aren't completely melted, continue heating in microwave at 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Stir crispy rice cereal and peanut butter into white chocolate-butterscotch mixture. Pour into the prepared baking dish.
5. Spoon semisweet chocolate in lines across the peanut butter mixture. Run a knife in the opposite direction of the chocolate lines to achieve a swirled, tiger-stripe pattern.
6. Cover dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate until set. Cut into small squares.

**SWRE News**

Mike R. Hagy, Chief Exec. Officer  
Joe Wynn, SWRE News editor

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SWRE News is published monthly for distribution to members of Southwest Rural Electric Association.

**24-Hour Dispatching**

**Emergency Service**

**1-800-256-7973**

**Payments**

Payments can be made at SWRE, 700 North Broadway, Tipton, OK 73570.

Online payments can be made at [www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com). NOTE: E-mail address must be on file with SWRE.

Payments may be made with SWRE's mobil app for phones and tablets.

**Altus** – Frazer Bank, National Bank of Commerce

**Blair** – Peoples State Bank

**Chillicothe** – American National Bank

**Crowell** – State Bank

**Electra** – Waggoner National Bank

**Frederick** – BancFirst, Frazer Bank

**Snyder** – All American Bank

**Vernon** – Herring Bank, Waggoner Bank, Bank of the West

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## SWRE Trading Post

Ads are online for 45 days & updated daily at [www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com)

**For Sale:** Quonset hut steel metal building, 30'x40'. Never been assembled. Still on trailer. Have complete assembly blueprints for it. Call 580-919-1656

**For Sale:** Pickup bed toolbox from Tractor Supply. Black. Almost new. Fits a full-size pickup. \$150. Call 580-335-1167

**For Sale:** Commercial building in Tipton on four corner lots with a 20'x48' warehouse. For more information, call 580-667-5466 or 580-305-0904

**For Sale:** Breed roping cows for sale, and eight head of fresh roping steers. Four or five have ear-length horns. Others are less. Photos available. Call 940-886-7711

**For Sale:** Four Goodyear Eagle tires, size P275-55R20. Also, one all-terrain Liberator tire, LT246-75R16. Vernon. Call 940-552-0747 or 940-838-8608

**For Sale:** 1989 350 motor home; Food trailer w/ a corn roaster; Also, 1998 3/4-ton 2500 Chevrolet Silverado. Call 580-318-3799

**For Sale:** Full size Sealy Posturepedic dual pillow-top mattress and box spring set. Great condition. No stains. No sag. Will deliver a reasonable distance. \$200. Call or text 580-480-2478

**For Sale:** Horse hay for sale. Premium Midland 99 Bermuda, fertilized for each cutting and sticker/weed free. Large round bales (5'x6'), \$65; Small squares (35"x40"), \$5.50 each (Discount for 100+). Near Friendship. Call 580-471-7284

**For Sale:** Antique tiger oak bedroom set, excellent condition. Full sleigh bed with nice mattress, large night stand with three drawers and cupboard, and large dresser w/ wood-framed oval beveled and movable mirror attached. Sacrifice at \$1,399. Also, beautiful antique oak full size bed frame (headboard and footboard), \$80. Call 580-471-7284

**For Sale:** LG brand washer and dryer. Front load washer. Excellent condition. Less than six years old. Used only in a household of two people. Works great. Nothing wrong with either. Asking \$800 for the set. Call 940-886-6529 if interested.

**For Sale:** 1/2 inch to 3 1/2-inch ratchet knock out set for \$500. Text or call Julian, Altus, at 580-230-9748

**For Sale:** Mirrors. One large and two small. Large is 36" x 44" for \$50. Small are 18.5" x 36" for \$25 each. Text or call Linda in Altus at 580-649-7309

**NOTE: To be included in the print issue of SWRE News, ads should be received by the 10th of the previous month.**

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only  
MAIL ADS TO JOE WYNN AT P.O. BOX 310 TIPTON, OK 73570. E-MAIL THEM TO JOE@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.