

SWRE Office and Outages

1-800-256-7973

NEW SWRE Bill Pay Line

Telephone Automated Bill Pay

1-855-980-6821



SWRE adds bill pay telephone service

SWRE has a special new telephone line to make it easier for members to pay their utility bill!

Co-op members who wish to pay by phone with a credit card, prepaid card, or debit card may now call a special number – **1-855-980-6821**.

When the call is answered, they will hear a prompt to enter their account number and payment information. It's easy, secure, and members can call day or night.

The payment will be processed and quickly posted to the proper account.

Use traditional number for everything else

The traditional SWRE telephone number – **1-800-256-7973** – may still be used, as always, to contact SWRE personnel, report outages, or conduct business.

The new special automated telephone service gives members one additional option for making payments at any hour of the day, any day of the week.

Other payment options

Of course, members may still make payments at the SWRE office in Tipton, by mail, online at www.swre.com, or utilizing the SWRE app for tablets and smart phones.

Payments are also accepted at designated banks throughout the service area. *Members must be aware,*

however, that bank payments should be made at least 10 days before their bill's due date. It often takes up to 10 days for payments made at banks to be received by SWRE.

Any account for which SWRE has not received payment by the due date is subject to disconnection – even if payment is in transit by mail from a bank. That is because the co-op has no way of knowing when payments have been given at a bank.

Reconnecting Service

SWRE bills that are not received by the due date are subject to disconnection.

Services that are disconnected for lack of payment will NOT be reconnected until the bill is paid.

During traditional business hours, members may call the SWRE business office (1-800-256-7973) to arrange for services to be reinstated.

After business hours, the disconnected members may make payment at the new automated bill pay line (1-855-980-6821) using a credit card, prepaid card, or debit card. When payment has been made, they may call the other SWRE line to request that service be reinstated.

The fee for reinstatement of service for non-paid accounts is \$40 if the restoration is done during business hours and \$120 if the service is performed outside business hours.

This fee will be added to the following month's bill.

SWRE Manager's Report

A New Season



March is here, and another season is quickly approaching. I'm anxious to see what spring is like here in the Texoma area. I've always thought it would be great to live in an area of the country that has four distinct seasons, but I never imagined that a place could have all four seasons within a single week. The old saying *"If you don't like the weather here just wait a few minutes, it will change"* had to be penned here!



Joe Wynn

March not only marks the end of a season, but this year it will also mark the retirement of a truly wonderful person and a dedicated SWRE employee, Mr. Joe Wynn. As I understand, Joe announced early last year his intent to retire at the end of 2016. However, with Mr. Hagy's retirement and the pending leadership transition, Joe graciously and unselfishly postponed his retirement to help

ensure a smooth transition for everyone involved.

You know Joe not only as SWRE's manager of communications and news editor, but also as a dedicated and committed community leader. I feel completely inadequate to begin to describe the impact that Joe has made in this community. For literally decades, Joe has poured himself into many public service opportunities in Southwest Oklahoma through his professional career and personal life.

Joe was born and raised in Tillman County Oklahoma, graduating from Frederick High School in 1971 and going on to earn an undergraduate degree in English from Oklahoma Baptist University and masters from SWOSU. Joe began his career in the mid-1970s at Walters, then Frederick Public Schools teaching English, yearbook and journalism. He later served as public information director for the Frederick school system and then moved on to serve as Executive Director of Communications for the Lawton Public Schools until his retirement from education in 2005. Joe then came home to serve as the Frederick Chamber of Commerce director for one year, until his next move to Southwest Rural Electric in 2006.

As Chamber director Joe invested his time and talents in his community. Judge Brad Benson, who served then as Frederick Chamber president, commented, "Joe has invested his life in Southwest Oklahoma. His insight in relating and communicating to people of all walks of life has been a wonder to

watch over the years I have known him. He is a student of our shared history, a voice of progress and concern, and a difference-maker in our communities. He provides wise counsel, and I'm honored to call him my friend."

According to Gary Tyler, superintendent of Great Plains Technology Center in Frederick, "Joe has volunteered his service to his community over the past 25 years more times than I can count. He has spearheaded bond elections and written more press releases than most newspaper men."

Joe has also served as president of the Frederick Chamber of Commerce and the Tillman County Historical Society. He is part of the Tillman County Election Board, The Frederick School Enrichment Foundation board, and Tillman County Retired Educators, just to name a few. It is little wonder that Joe was honored this year as Frederick's Most Useful Citizen! I could go on further but there's simply not time or space to list his many contributions, credits, and accomplishments to this community.

On a personal note, Joe was the first employee to reach out to me when the announcement was made that I would be joining the SWRE team. He was welcoming, encouraging, and generous with both his time and guidance. Although it's only been a few months, Joe has become a trusted confidant and a dear friend. He is one of those people that you have an instant comfort with and you feel you've known forever. Joe's support and helpfulness has been invaluable to me both on a personal and professional level and I can't express how much I appreciate him.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce Joe will be officially retiring from SWRE at the end of the month. Although we could never replace Joe and all that he has done for SWRE, we are in the process of interviewing for a communications specialist and hope to complete that process in the very near future. That said, Joe has again, unselfishly volunteered his services to bridge the gap through this transition period.

So over the coming days please join me in congratulating Joe on his retirement, and if you have the opportunity, express your appreciation to him for all that he has done for our community. And if I know Joe, he will continue to play a vital leadership role in our community into the future.

Joe, our co-op, community, and our future are better because of you! May God richly bless you as you enter this "New Season".

Thank you, Sir!

Kenneth E. Simmons



Call 811 before you dig

Spring is a time when many folks dig in their yard, plant trees or take on construction projects around their property.

There is no way for most people to know exactly where electric lines, cables, gas lines, or other dangers lie below the ground's surface. Digging without consideration can be

dangerous – and it's against the law in both Texas and Oklahoma.

In both states a call to 811 at least two working days before the dig will provide an opportunity for someone to come to the site and mark any underground lines.

The agency in Oklahoma that handles marking requests is OKIE811 (or "Call Okie").

In Texas, Texas811 is the agency.

Both agencies can be accessed by dialing 811 or through online requests at their websites.

Always... Call before you dig!

It's the law, and it could be the difference between a safe operation and disaster.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



Think before planting

If you plan to plant trees on your property this spring, keep them at a distance from overhead power lines.

It's important to remember that the seedling or small sapling that you plant today could be a huge tree within a few years. Trees that grow into power lines can cause outages, interfere with the flow of power, and present a safety hazard.

Location tips for planting trees are provided at SWRE's website (www.swre.com) under "News and Events".

24-Hour Dispatching Emergency

Service
1-800-256-7973

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

Online payments can be made at www.swre.com or utilizing the SWRE app for phones and tablets. Payments may be made by telephone at 1-855-980-6821.

Payments may also be made at the following area banking institutions:

Oklahoma

Altus – Frazer Bank, National Bank of Commerce
Blair – Peoples State Bank
Snyder – All American Bank
Frederick – BancFirst, Frazer Bank

Texas

Chillicothe – American National Bank
Crowell – State Bank
Electra – Waggoner National Bank
Vernon – Herring Bank, Waggoner Bank, Bank of the West

NOTE: When paying at a bank, allow 10 days prior to the bill's due date.

What's Cookin' in the SWRE Kitchen

A great easy recipe from Texas Co-op Power's *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook*

Chicken Enchilada Casserole

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- Butter
- 3-4 chicken breasts, boiled, boned and chopped
- 1 can (10.75 oz.) cream of chicken soup
- 1 can (10.75 oz.) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 small can (4 oz.) chopped mild green chilies
- 1 carton (8 oz.) sour cream
- Flour tortillas
- Cheddar cheese, grated

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Sauté onions in butter in a large skillet until clear. Add chicken, soups and chilies. Mix in sour cream.
3. Grease casserole dish. Line bottom with tortillas, then spread half the chicken mixture over the tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese. Repeat layer of tortillas, chicken mixture and cheese.
4. Bake until cheese melts.

NOTE: This and more than 700 other great recipes submitted by Texas Electric Cooperative cooks are available in a great cookbook. To order it by mail, send a check or money order for \$29.95 to *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook*, 1122 Colorado Street, 24th Floor, Austin, Texas 78701.

SWRE News

Kenneth E. Simmons, Manager/CEO
Joe Wynn, *SWRE News* editor

Board of Trustees

Dan White, Pres. District 7
Don Ellis, Vice Pres. District 1
Don Proctor, Sec. District 3
Dan Lambert..... District 2
Ray Walker..... District 4
Dan Elsener..... District 5
Ronnie Swan..... District 6
Carl Brockriede..... District 8
Jimmy Holland..... District 9

Southwest Rural Electric Assn.
P.O. Box 310
700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570-0310
1-800-256-7973

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

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Southwest Rural Electric Association
P.O. Box 310
Tipton, Ok. 73570-0310

Your Touchstone Energy Partner



Touchstone Energy®

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
TIPTON, OK. 73570
PERMIT NO. 6

Return Service Requested

SWRE Trading Post

Ads are online for 45 days & updated daily at www.swre.com

Want to Buy: Looking for an old camper trailer, the smaller the better, in any condition. Also, any old gas pump in any condition, to be used for decoration. Call Sharon at 580-318-1103

For Sale: Connected chair/desk seating. Good for home schools, clubs, or where seating with writing or reading surface is needed. \$10 each, with reduced price for more than three. Near Vernon. Call 940-414-0893

Free to a Good Home: Large neutered mixed breed yard dog. He's a great dog but needs a new home because we are moving and can't take him with us. He's beautiful and is great with kids. He needs a good country home. Call 580-450-6088

For Sale: Maytag washer, large tub, less than one year old. Bravo model XL. \$500. 580-563-2357

For Sale: 2013 Puma 28-ft bumper-pull travel trailer. One super-slide. Sleeps six. Lots of extras. Equalizer hitch, electric jack. Electric or LP gas. Smoke free. Pulled very little. Very nice. \$14,500. Call 580-480-5618, Blair

For Sale: 2011 Keystone Avalanche fifth-wheel trailer. Top-of-the-line. Outside kitchen, three slides, and fireplace. Call 940-839-6045 for more details and pictures.

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: 1989 350 Winnebago, Food trailer w/ a corn roaster; Also, 1998 3/4-ton 2500 Chevrolet Silverado. Call 580-919-1656

Free: Two large bathroom mirrors, free if you will come remove. Sizes are 58" x 34" and 60" x 40". E-mail me at janmary87@gmail.com for more info and I will provide phone number.

For Sale: Collection of Hummel figurines. Will sell individually or as a set. E-mail at janmary87@gmail.com for more info and I will provide phone number.

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: 2005 Dodge 2500 4x4 diesel. Automatic, 4-door quad cab, longbed. Ranch hand bumper, gooseneck hitch, bedliners, fender flares. 139,000 miles. \$19,500 OBO. Also, spike bed for 3/4-ton pickup w/ 2 toolboxes. \$2,500 OBO, or package deal. Call Larry at 580-335-1655

For Sale: Wooden miniature horse cart. Stored inside barn and never used. \$300. Call 580-639-2526 or e-mail admin@tommyfranks.com

For Sale: Large lift chair. Bought in November. Call 580-563-9141 for info.

For Sale: Glider rocker, \$20; Gazelle exercise machine, \$10; Simple sewing machine cabinet, \$10; Old treadle sewing machine cabinet w/o foot, \$15; Old evaporative cooler (may or may not work, but has new pump), free – you haul. Near Oklaunion, TX. Call 940-886-2312

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 JOEW@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.