

SWRE POWER SOURCE

Southwest Rural Electric Assn., Inc. • Tipton, OK • Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 11.

*“Starting the Morning on the Mountain”
Photo by SWRE lineman, Austin Huff*

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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CELEBRATING OUR LINEWORKERS

// You've likely noticed Southwest Rural Electric's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning.

Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, SWRE's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in southwest Oklahoma and north central Texas, SWRE has 17 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 3,100+ miles of power lines across 11 counties and 6,000+ square miles in Oklahoma and Texas. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other



technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow “#ThankALineworker” on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers. //

Jeff Simpson
CEO

#ThankALineworker

Mike Wolfe
Operations Manager /
Lineman

Jim McPherson
Dispatch / Lineman

Calvin Flood
Warehouse / Lineman

Keith Jonas
Meter Technician /
Lineman

Rick Risinger
Staking Technician /
Lineman

Austin Huff
Construction Foreman
/ Lineman

David Ball
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Tyler Weathers
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Justin Marsh
TX District Lineman

James Auldrige
TX District Lineman

**James “Redbird”
Stephens**
TX Journeyman
Lineman

Cory Schur
TX Apprentice
Lineman

Digging into an Outdoor Project?

SWRE News



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

Trading Post

For Sale: Sofa, swivel chair, and La-Z-Boy rocker recliner. Sofa with 3 cushions, tweed-like fabric, approximately 6.5' long, asking \$150. Swivel living room chair, cranberry color, part leather, some wear on edge of seat, asking \$50. Leather big man La-Z-Boy recliner, oak brown color, asking \$150. All located in Frederick. Text (580) 770-1880 for pictures or more information.

For Sale: Case three-bottom moldboard plow. Asking \$250, cash sale only. Buyer must load. Request pictures by emailing hwcs@sbcglobal.net. For more information, call (940) 552-7402.

For Sale: King-size pillow top mattress and foundation. Legacy Aloe Vera brand. Pristine condition. Includes two new king-size pillows and one set of like-new king sheets. Asking \$500 or best offer. Also, one semi-circular TV table with opaque glass and mahogany wood. Asking \$25. Call (580) 569-4550.

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Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!



VEGGIE PIZZA WREATH

SERVING SIZE: 8

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 package (8 ounces each) crescent rolls | 3 cups assorted vegetables – diced (try |
| 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese - softened | broccoli, cauliflower, orange bell pepper, |
| ½ cup sour cream | green onions, radishes, and carrots) |
| ½ cup mayonnaise | |
| ½ packet ranch dressing powdered mix | ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat your oven to 350° F. Remove crescent rolls from the package. Do not unroll. Cut each roll into eight slices. Arrange in a circle on an ungreased 14-inch round pan.
2. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on the pan for at least 5 minutes before carefully removing to a serving plate to cool completely.
3. In a small bowl, beat together the cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, and ranch dressing mix until smooth. Then, spread this mixture over the baked rolls. Top with assorted vegetables and cheese. Chill for an hour in the refrigerator before serving.

Source: This recipe would make an excellent appetizer for your Easter celebration. Find this recipe and photos by Michael Wurm, Jr. at <https://inspiredbycharm.com/veggie-pizza-wreath/>.

SWRE

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