



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Eureka Community Players Present *Quilters*

Photos courtesy of Eureka Community Players

The house lights dim. The crowd finishes their conversations in hushed whispers until the theatre finally falls silent. Backstage, you close your eyes, take a deep breath, and try to cage the butterflies that have suddenly taken up residence in your stomach. It's time.

The stage lights turn on with blinding intensity as you stride out onto the stage. No longer yourself; you are now Sarah, a pioneer woman with six daughters, trying to survive the harsh reality of frontier life.

This will be the experience for Lincoln Electric Trustee Ethel White, who portrays Sarah in the upcoming Eureka Community Players (ECP) production of *Quilters*. Audience members can expect a slightly different, but still incredible, experience.

The August 3, 4, and 5 run of *Quilters* will be presented in the historic Eureka Community Hall building. Built in the late 1930's, this building is returning to its roots as a community gathering site after being privately-owned for several decades.

Though still owned by an individual, the space has been rented out to ECP. What once was a furniture showroom is now transitioning back to the original intentions of a stage and a place for the community to come together for entertainment.

The audience can sit back, relax, and enjoy the trials and triumphs of Sarah in the newly purchased seating. They can munch on freshly popped popcorn as they laugh, cry, and reflect on what frontier life meant for Sarah and the others who lived it.

The others, much like the community members that constructed the Eureka Com-



Lurking on the Railroad (2016)

munity Building. Getting a site Eureka and surrounding communities could use for dances, plays, parties, and more was not an easy feat in Depression-era rural America.

It took the cooperative effort of many people and organizations to complete the project. Winton Weydemeyer, chairman of the

Community Hall Building Committee for 14 years, wrote about what it took for the building to become a reality.

"Involvement there was. Those who contributed time, effort, or cash during the course of the project included more than 300 residents of

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Left: *The Butler Did It (2013)*
Above: *The First Date (2015)*

ENJOY THE 2018 LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR

The beginning of August in Eureka must mean it's almost time for the Lincoln County Fair! Even as I think about it, I can taste the fair food, hear the chatter of friends catching up, feel the sun warming my face, and catch a whiff of the animals in the barns.

While the fair elicits excitement for me and many others, it can often cause stress for 4-H members. Now is the time to update those project books, finish entries, and finally get that steer to lead well.

It takes incredible time, energy, and

dedication to raise any animal, but even more so for those 4-H animals. Kids from age 9 to 18 are tasked with being the sole caretaker of a living creature. There are many chores that come as a result of this endeavor.

First you start with the basics. The animal must be fed and watered consistently. You have to ensure it has a clean and safe habitat. If it gets sick or injured, you must tend to its wounds or administer medication.

For 4-H projects, though, there are additional tasks that must be done. You have to bathe and groom the animal. Spend time taming it. Teach it to lead and be shown. Document your efforts in a project log.

In reward for these efforts, 4-Her's get to sell their market animals in the livestock auction at the fair. To support the youth in our community, Lincoln Electric is proud to be a longtime buyer at the auction.

As you will read in the *Business and Boardroom Briefs* below, your Lincoln Electric Board will again carry on this tradition at the 2018 Lincoln County Fair. We will gladly raise our paddle to endorse the seventh Cooperative principle of 'Concern for Community'.

As an integral part of our communities, Lincoln Electric will have a presence at the fair. Please check out our informational display booth in the fine arts building. While there, sign up for a chance to win one of four energy certificates. We figure winning would make for a nice end to a wonderful weekend.

I hope to see you at the fair!

Ray



Manager's Notes
by Ray Ellis

Lincoln County Fair Display Booth Hours
Friday, August 24
 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday, August 25
 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday, August 26
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

News & Views

Published monthly by Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees hold regular meetings monthly at the Eureka office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any items of interest, please contact the general manager prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, August 27, 2018

Board of Trustees

- **Mike Workman** - President, District 6 Upper
- **Wesly Loughman** - Vice President, District 6 Upper
- **Courtney Pluid** - Secretary, District 6 Upper
- **Myra Appel** - District 7 Lower
- **Becky Evins** - District 6 Upper
- **Joel Graves** - District 6 Upper
- **Marianne Roose** - District 6 Upper
- **Tina Taurman** - District 7 Lower
- **Troy Truman** - District 6 Upper
- **Ethel White** - District 6 Upper

General Manager Ray Ellis

**In case of power outage:
Always call 406-889-3301**

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BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on June 25, 2018. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Authorized the purchase of ten substation control panels to replace outdated versions.
- Approved a donation of \$500 to the Sunburst Foundation for Shakespeare in the Park.
- Authorized a budget of up to \$8,500 for the Lincoln County 4-H Livestock Auction.
- Approved a Revolving Loan Fund request for a \$145,000 loan for Pet Wellness.
- Approved the application of \$1.75 million in loans for long term propane storage and a new bobtail for Rural Propane Services, LLC.
- Approved a wage increase for non-union employees.

	Year to Date 05/31/2018	Year to Date 05/31/2017
Year to Date kWh Sales	55,874,134	58,444,744
Year to Date Revenue	\$ 5,029,564	\$ 4,902,969
Year to Date Cost of Power	\$ 2,509,306	\$ 2,508,701
Year to Date Operating Exp	\$ 2,362,696	\$ 2,142,807
Year to Date Margins	\$ 191,991	\$ 277,129
Number of Members	4,577	4,502
Number of Meters	5,920	5,840
Miles of Line	963	956
Total Utility Plant	\$ 32,265,490	\$ 32,463,586
Member Equity	\$ 9,130,909	\$ 9,092,686
May Average Residential Use (kWh)	788	899
May Average Residential Billing	\$96.81	\$99.80

Players

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the valley, from Stryker to Rexford; more than a dozen local organizations; School District No. 14; the town of Eureka; Lincoln County; the U.S. Forest Service; the Federal Works Projects Administration; and individual WPA personnel.

A drive early in 1939 netted cash contributions from organizations and individuals in the community of more than \$1000... By December 21, the investment of the community in the building was calculated to be \$3762.08"

So it's fitting that ECP should take up residence in this building; not only as a community event, but also because the group was begun in similar cooperative fashion.

It all started in 2013 with local theatre enthusiast Adrian Miller, the self-proclaimed 'mastermind' of ECP. He had long had the idea of starting a group and finally decided it was time for Eureka to again have live theatre.

He contacted Kelley Comstock, who had been directing Lincoln County High School drama productions for years. Miller recounts, "Kelley told me, 'If you can get it going, I'll direct the first play.' So I knew I had to do something."

Miller got in touch with performer Andy Hanson and they started recruiting cast members. Miller put up his own funds to purchase the scripts and ECP was born.

Their first play was *The Butler Did It*, a comedic

take on the classic whodunit. Miller says, "We didn't really know what to expect that first time; would people be interested enough to come?" It turns out the answer was a resounding, "YES!"

The Butler Did It was a raging success with overwhelming attendance. Six years and 14 plays later, the live performances put on by ECP have become a favorite evening activity in the community.

Like any good idea, ECP has grown and prospered. After surviving for five years on a threadbare budget supplemented by those involved, ECP established non-profit, 501(c)3 status in March 2017.

With that designation, ECP can continue to grow. "As a non-profit, we can now apply for grants and donations, which is a big help. It has also been great to have John and Sharon LaBonty involved. They're retired and can devote more time to ECP so they've gotten a lot accomplished the last few years," Miller says.

One of ECP's accomplishments has been purchasing theatre equipment, such as lighting and a sound system. "We bought everything portable so we can use it wherever we end up permanently," reveals John.

The equipment was mostly funded with donations, a portion of which was supplied by Lincoln Electric. John says, "Lincoln Electric and Interbel have both given us donations. We really appreciate their support for our community



Above: Nunsense (2014)

Below: Lincoln Electric Trustee Ethel White shakes hands with Eureka Community Players President John LaBonty in front of lighting partially funded with a donation from Lincoln Electric group."



Lincoln Electric members can support ECP by becoming an ECP member or simply by attending the show. You can see *Quilters* at 7:00 p.m. on August 3 and 4 or at 3:00 p.m. on August 5. Plan to arrive early, though, as this popular event has a habit of selling out and you won't want to miss seeing Sarah's story unfold.

Go to eurekacomunityplayers.com or check them out on Facebook to get information on current productions. Online is also the ideal place to find out about

audition opportunities. Who knows... Next time it could be you battling the butterfly wings backstage before walking out into the spotlight.

Thanks to Sharon LaBonty of the Eureka Community Players for allowing her Community Hall Building research at the Eureka Historical Society to be used in this article.



Left: Dead to the Last Drop (2014)

Above: Males Order Brides (2018)

Photo courtesy of Morgen Pinnock Reynolds

Lincoln Electric will be closed
Monday, September 3



Coming this fall to a mailbox near you!

Lincoln Electric will be conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members. Only a small portion of our members will receive a copy of the survey so it is important to get as many responses as possible. If you are one of the few to receive a survey, please take ten minutes to complete and return it in the provided postage-paid envelope.

The survey asks about your home, appliances, energy efficiency measures, and your opinions on energy use and related topics. Completing this survey helps Lincoln Electric plan for the future as we strive to provide the best service possible to our members.

We appreciate your help!

Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency

By Anne Prince

Electronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

The Why

But before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, “what’s in it for me?” As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell.

Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child – otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do

so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that’s something children can relate to!).

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

Learning by Doing

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn’t have to be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to

count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss

ENERGY STAR-rated appliances.

Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape.

