

REU and Redding Celebrate Public Power Week

For four sun-splashed hours on October 12th, the Redding Electric Power Plant and its parking lot were transformed into a showcase for public power, capping REU's weeklong celebration of Public Power Week.

REU's celebration also included holding an after-hours employee and family potluck dinner on October 9th and hosting a Greeters event for about 50 members of the Chamber of Commerce on October 11th.

(Continued on page 2)

THE Inside Line



Some of the many REU employees who helped make the REU Open House a success. One local resident, Vickie Wolf, said, "I have to put in a plug for REU employees. Working 16-hour days, seven days a week, after the Carr Fire showed a lot of commitment. Thank you!"

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October 2018, In this Issue:

- REU and Redding Celebrate Public Power Week
- 1st Family Potluck Dinner & Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- REU Employees on What Public Power Means to Them
- Comings & Goings
- REU Wins PILOT Case at California Supreme Court

REU
Redding Electric Utility
POWERING A STRONG COMMUNITY

Many thanks to all the REU employees who helped plan and deliver three awesome events for Public Power Week. When we work together to achieve a common goal, no organization is better!

Newsletter team: Lynn Arts, Carmen Bahr, Dan Beans,
Justin P Day, John Egan, and Marlys Johnson

Newsletter Board:

Ben Goehring, Electric Distribution
Jessie Baker, REU Power Production
Jordan Michaud, Electric Distribution
Kevin Burke, Electric Distribution
Kelly Dunbar, Financial Services
Lisa Casner, Resources
Sam Marvin, Field Service Meter Reading
Tonia Gale, Energy Management
Vince Karlson, Customer Service

Please send story ideas, photos, and info for
"Comings & Goings" to
REUComm@reupower.com

In addition to the Parsons students,
over 215 Parsons teachers, parents,
and members of the community took
in the sights, asked questions of REU

staff at information booths, and
generally enjoyed a day outside on
a perfect October afternoon.

Public Power Week

(Continued from page 1)

At the Public Power Week Open House, 130 eighth-grade students from Parsons Junior High School took bucket-truck rides, toured the power plant, and had photos taken of them "climbing" a utility pole while wearing a fully loaded lineman's utility belt. They also watched a demonstration of the "hurt-man rescue" technique and checked out REU's newest pool vehicle, a plug-in electric hybrid Chevy Volt.

Bucket-Truck Rides Popular with Students

How did the students feel about zooming up 60 feet into the air in one of REU's bucket-trucks? "It was horrifying," Geo, a Parsons student, said with a smile. Samantha, another student, said happily, "It was horrible." A third, D'Zell, said, "There was a lot of shaking at the top." A fourth student said, warily, "It was more fun going down than going up."

Each time the bucket began rising, students on board shrieked and shouted to their friends on the ground. Selfies were snapped. Fingers anxiously gripped the sides of the bucket. And two minutes later, when the ride was over, almost every student raced to the end of the line for another ride.

Donald Myers, the lineman operating one of the two bucket-truck rides, said, "It's a lot of fun reaching out to the public like this. I love showing students what we do." When asked why the bucket-truck arm seemed to shake so much when the students were 60 feet up in the air on a windless day, he just grinned.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Page 1: Justin P Day

Page 2: Justin P Day

Page 2: Justin P Day

Page 3: Justin P Day

Page 4: Justin P Day & John Egan

Page 5: Justin P Day & Jessie Baker

Page 6: Meaghan and Robert Aitken; Nicole Brown; Lisa Casner; Nigel Skeet; Jessie Baker; and Justin P Day



Ken Nachman, working foreman-line, demonstrates a hurt-man rescue for 130 eighth-grade students from Parsons Junior High School.



Parsons Junior High School students took numerous bucket-truck rides during the Public Power Week Open House.



Bucket Truck Rides

(Continued from page 2)



Bucket-truck rides were a popular feature of the open house REU hosted to mark Public Power Week.

Local resident Vickie Wolf also braved the bucket-truck ride. Once her feet were back on the ground, she said, "It's not too often you can visit the power plant and get a ride in a bucket truck. But I have to put in a plug for REU employees. Working 16-hour days, seven days a week, after the Carr Fire showed a lot of commitment. Without that level of commitment, things could have been much worse. Thank you!"

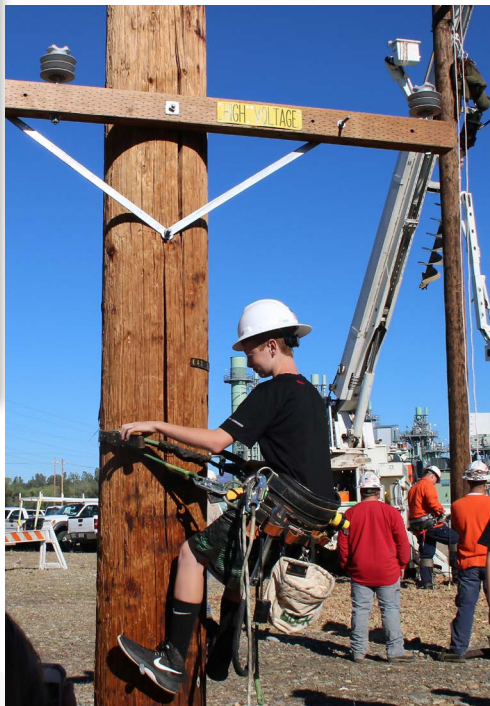
Educators Appreciate Hands-On Learning

Fay Pisciotta, a science teacher at Parsons, was grateful for the opportunity to bring her students out to the power plant. "The open house is a great experience. I'm glad REU did it. I can teach about electricity in the classroom, but it is so much more effective to see it applied in real life. I appreciate the opportunity to expose our students to science in the real world!"

Parsons' principal, Tony Moebus, said the open house was "Awesome. This kind of hands-on learning supports the math and science instruction we provide students with in the classroom." He noted that Parsons students can take a half-year STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) elective where they focus on different disciplines to design a project, like a bridge, and then bring it to life using 3D printers.

Climb a Pole, Check Out Electric Transportation

Once the bucket-truck rides ended, some students tried their hand at climbing a wooden utility pole while wearing a fully loaded lineman's belt, which weighs about 20 pounds.



Posing for selfies on a power pole, which included sporting the nearly 20-pound lineman's belt.

"These open houses are great because they break down barriers between REU and the public," said Darrell Christensen, electric manager (Line). "The students get to see linemen as real people."

Then it was on to explore REU's plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. Lowell Watros and Leslie Bryan, among other REU employees, took turns answering student questions. Several students said the hatchback vehicle looked cool. Their most popular questions were:

- What does the Chevy Volt cost? (Somewhere around \$27,000 after federal rebates.)
- How far could it go on a single electric charge? (About 53 miles.)
- What does a full charge cost? (About \$3.)
- How does electric transportation compare to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles? (It's far less expensive — about the equivalent of \$1.08 per gallon.)



Lowell Watros, resource planner, was one of several REU employees who provided information and answered questions about REU's new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, a Chevy Volt.

"These students are really interested in transportation because they're only two or three years away from learning to drive," commented Lowell, a planner in the Resources group. "But they also wanted to know if the vehicle had the Apple CarPlay option." It does. In addition, students wanted to know if the vehicle's display was a touchscreen. In fact it is, just like a tablet.

REU Cares

REU employees showed their community support by wearing pink on Think Pink Day, October 18th.



THE Inside Line

1st Family Potluck Dinner & Chamber of Commerce Meeting

On Tuesday, October 9th, at the end of the work day, about 100 employees and their families came out for REU's 1st Family Potluck dinner. **Jake Pearson**, a lineman, dethroned Joe Bowers, our Electric Manager - Financial, to become REU's newest Cornhole champion. And **Luke Frandsen**, an electric utility analyst in Financial Services, took home the prize for the best chicken wings in the Wing'in It! Chicken Wing Cookoff.



Director **Dan Beans** (right), presents **Luke Frandsen** (left), a utility analyst in Financial Services, with the award for cooking the best chicken wings.

On Thursday, October 11th, about 50 members of the Redding Chamber of Commerce held their weekly Greeters meeting in Avtech's Shasta Conference Room. As the businesspeople networked, drank their coffee, and munched on Krispy Kreme donuts, Assistant Director Ted Miller asked them, "How many of you know your community has a power plant?" Only about three people raised their hand.

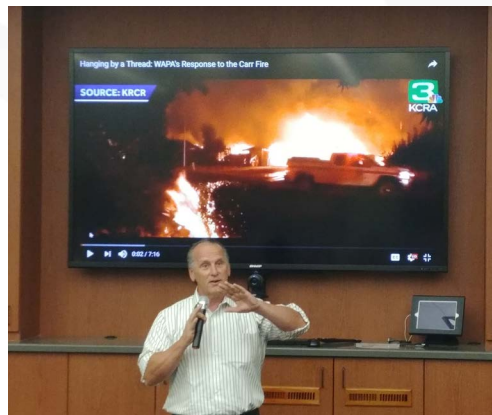
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Assistant Director **Ted Miller** (right) congratulates new Cornhole Champion **Jake Peterson** (left), a lineman.



Nathan Aronson (left), electric program supervisor, and **Jake Peterson** (right), lineman, concentrate as they compete in the finale of the Second Annual REU Cornhole Competition.



Assistant Director **Ted Miller** spoke to the Chamber Greeters before showing the WAPA-produced video, "Hanging by a Thread."

Ted then introduced WAPA's video on the Carr Fire, "Hanging by a Thread," which used video footage and interviews with insiders at WAPA, the U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire, Trinity Public Utilities District, and REU to show how close the community came to completely losing its electric supply during the catastrophic fire.

Power to Seniors Soup Kitchen Event

The 17th Annual Power to Seniors Soup Kitchen will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on November 7th at a new location, the Senior Citizen's Hall at 2290 Benton Drive in Redding. There will be gourmet soups prepared by local chefs, live entertainment, raffle baskets, and soup to go. The cost is \$12 per adult, \$6 for children ages 3 through 12. All funds raised will help seniors pay energy bills. Employees wishing to support this event are encouraged to attend the event while wearing their black REU polo, as well as donate items to the REU Employees' raffle basket. The event's sponsor, the Older Adult Policy Council, hopes to raise \$20,000 at this annual event.



**Power to Seniors
Soup Kitchen**

*Providing utility assistance
to seniors*

REU Employees on What Public Power Means to Them

As we approached Public Power Week, we asked a few employees to tell us what public power and Public Power Week meant to them. Here are some of the responses we received:

"Public Power Week is an opportunity for the Redding community and REU employees to celebrate being a publicly owned utility, where our customer's voices are heard."

— **Valerie Ibarra**, Financial Services



Valerie Ibarra

"Public Power means we are a member of the community. We are your neighbors. We attend the same functions and churches. We shop at the same places. Public Power means quality jobs for the community, bringing electric service to homes and business at the best possible pricing and with great reliability. Public Power means decisions are made that are best for the community. Public Power has purpose and provides financial contributions to the city government to assist in funding first responders. Public Power cares about the community!"

— **Patrick Keener**, Legislative Services



Pat Keener

"Public power means to me having the best employees who work tirelessly to maintain a level of service that is above and beyond what's required of them. These employees are what defines the line between private service and public service. These employees are proud to serve their customers."

— **Tonia Gale**, associate resource planner



Tonia Gale

"It's about bridging the unknowns with the public about what it means to own your own electric utility and what benefits the utility provides for them."

— **Bob Eckelbarger**, Electric Program supervisor



Bob Eckelbarger

Mark your calendar!

Volunteers Needed for KIXE-TV 9 Telethon:

Quality TV programming doesn't just happen — it requires community support. And on Friday, November 2nd, that means REU! On the evening of November 2nd REU employees will answer calls and take pledges for Channel 9. KIXE will provide drinks, dinner, and snacks. REU employees will provide the warm and friendly voice that callers hear when they make a pledge. Volunteers need to arrive at the studio at 603 North Market Street in Redding by 5:00 p.m. The telethon runs from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Please contact Carmen Bahr at 339-7351 or cbahr@reupower.com if you want to answer phones on November 2nd alongside Dan and Sheree Beans, Joe Bowers, Lisa Bryan, Bill Hughes, Leslie Gilleland, and other REU luminaries.



What Public Power Means to Me!

THE
Inside
Line

Comings & Goings

Meaghan and Robert Aitken welcomed their first child, Penelope Lynn Aitken, on October 5th. Penelope weighed in at 8 lbs., 15 oz. Meaghan works as a customer service representative in the Customer Service group.



Penelope Lynn Aitken

Elliott and Nicole Brown welcomed their first child, Adeline Mae Brown, on September 24th. She weighed 9 lbs., 3.4 oz. and measured 21.5 inches. Elliott is an electrical engineer in the Engineering & Operations group.



Elliott and
Adeline Mae Brown

Grant Dunn, a five-year veteran of REU, was promoted to senior system operator—power at the Redding Power Plant. Previously he had been a system operator—power.



Grant Dunn

Tonia Gale, who has worked at REU for three years, was promoted to associate resource planner from electric utility analyst. She works at the Redding Power Plant.



Tonia Gale

Eric Halpenny, a six-year veteran of REU, accepted the position of power plant maintenance supervisor at the Redding Power Plant. Previously he had been a power plant engineer and project coordinator at the power plant.



Eric Halpenny

After 19 years at REU, **Wendy Hulbert** will be retiring in December. An electric utility analyst in the Financial Services group, Wendy's post-REU plans include house projects; travel to Montana, New England, and Canada; visiting national parks, monuments, and wildlife refuges; longer and more frequent walks with her husband and dog; and just stopping to smell the roses.



Wendy Hulbert

Demetra Jones was promoted to an electric utility analyst—settlements & power analytics in the Energy Management group at the Redding Power Plant. Previously she had been an executive assistant at the power plant.



Demetra Jones

Nicholas Zettel, a 15-year REU employee, was promoted to assistant director for resources. Previously, he had been the manager of resources.



Nicholas Zettel

Please send your news to REUComm@REUPower.com. To help us out, could you put "Comings & Goings item" in the subject line?

REU Wins PILOT Case at California Supreme Court

A critical and long-running legal dispute was resolved in REU's favor this summer when the California Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision supporting REU's payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) transfers to the city.

"This decision was huge for REU, other city agencies, and residents of Redding," said Director Dan Beans. "Like hundreds of municipal utilities across the country, REU pays a fee to the city that compensates the general fund for the costs of services that other city departments provide to REU."

"The court's decision, issued August 28, reaffirms the value of the city owning its own electric utility," Dan continued. "As mentioned by the city manager earlier this year, the PILOT funds the equivalent of 40 entry-level police officers or 60 entry-level firefighters. This means that in addition

to charging electric prices that are nearly \$50 million less per year than what PG&E would charge, our residential customers help fund emergency services."

In the case, *Citizens for Fair REU Rates v. City of Redding*, the court ruled that the PILOT was not a tax, as had been alleged by a group that filed suit. Each year, the city's budget includes a transfer from REU's enterprise fund to the city's general fund.

In its 7-0 decision, the court ruled, "The undisputed evidence here shows that the challenged

rates did not exceed the reasonable costs of providing electric service. Because the challenged rates were not taxes, voter approval was not required."



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