James Smith discovered Camp Taloali on a field trip for the Oregon School for the Deaf. Tucked alongside the North Santiam River on over 100 wooded acres in Stayton, the camp was developed 40 years ago as a summertime educational getaway for deaf or hearing impaired children.

Camp Taloali (meaning bird taking flight) offers hiking, biking and equestrian trails, an extensive disk golf course, a survival skills course, a giant swimming pool, as well as fishing and boating on the river. James, who is a full time history, social studies, and construction technology teacher at the school, began volunteering at the camp because he wanted to help it realize more of its potential. The board of directors agreed and has made James the part time camp administrator.

While James was teaching American Sign Language (ASL) at Utah State University and working full time in construction, he met future wife Lynell in his ASL lab. Majoring in elementary education on a fast track to her masters in deaf education, Lynell learned ASL in her teen years when her older sister lost hearing at age 16.

Although James is deaf, and Lynell is hearing, they share ASL. Due to his reserved nature, he tried to find a way to ask her out by enlisting her help in translating a letter for his brother living in Madagascar. Then, as a thank you, he invited her to dinner. “Graduation wasn’t far off for her and I realized I’d have to act fast,” he signed. They were married less than a year later.

Within a few years, they’d sold a house he had built for them, had their first child, and he was earning his own masters in deaf education. In 2013, he was offered a full time position in Salem at the Oregon School for the Deaf. The couple has four children, aged three to twelve. Their oldest son is James, who is hearing. The other three: Bryan, Vivian, and Loreann, are deaf.

This fall, Oregon voters will decide whether to use a portion of lottery revenues to fund outdoor education for all students. James joked, “There’s so much to learn outdoors besides Pokemon Go. Beyond learning about conservation and sustainability, children can touch on all the common core benchmarks with outdoor activities.”

Lynell, who volunteers as the camp business manager, has begun promoting the use of the camp property for other groups and activities. “The camp currently receives about half its budget from organizations like Quota International, the Elks, Lions, and two foundations affiliated with the Oregon School for the Deaf. The other half is from camp tuition and rentals,” says Lynell.

“For part of our mission is to lessen the gap between those with and without hearing impairment,” she adds. “By broadening the number of public events and educational opportunities at Camp Taloali we’re beginning to achieve that dream. We welcome donors, volunteers, and campers to be a part of the camp experience.”

For more information, visit www.taloali.org.
WHAT IS A DUCTLESS HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM?
It’s a highly efficient heating and cooling system that uses heat pump technology.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A DUCTLESS SYSTEM?
- Save 25 – 40% on electric heating costs
- Provides energy-efficient cooling
- Maintains a constant comfort level
- Easy to install
- Salem Electric incentives are available ranging from $750 – $1,500
- Tax credits may be available

IS THIS A NEW TECHNOLOGY?
The technology was developed in the 1970s and is widely used throughout Asia and Europe. Ductless systems have been used in the U.S. for more than 30 years and are ideal for Northwest climate. This is a proven, highly efficient technology.

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT’S A GOOD FIT FOR ME?
Ductless systems are a cost-effective solution for:
- Upgrading electrically heated homes
- Replacing or supplementing inefficient baseboard, wall or ceiling units
- Remodels, room additions, or new homes
- Supplementing other heating systems

WHAT KIND OF MAINTENANCE DOES A DUCTLESS SYSTEM REQUIRE?
As with all heating and cooling systems, ductless heat pumps require basic maintenance. In most cases, this is limited to keeping filters and coils clean (easily done by the homeowner). We also recommend a professional maintenance visit every one to three years to ensure optimum performance.

Visit SalemElectric.com for more information.
Salem Electric has a long-standing commitment to protecting our natural resources. Unfortunately, power interruptions are often bird-related. To mitigate this situation, Salem Electric’s staff has implemented programs to help identify areas where we can protect our system and make it safer for birds.

Salem Electric’s Avian Protection Plan works to eliminate unwanted contact between birds and our overhead facilities. The need for the plan is driven by a handful of federal regulations that protect all but a few species of birds in Salem Electric’s service area and addresses the requirements that must be met.

The Plan includes guidelines for crews when they encounter a new nesting area and gives a brief overview of the dos and don’ts of avian interactions. Salem Electric crews encounter a variety of species in our service area, but the most common are osprey.

Each spring during nesting season, crews keep a close watch on pole tops, looking for osprey migrating back into the area. Whenever a crew member spots a new nest being built on one of our structures, we arrange for a new structure in the vicinity with a nesting platform built specifically for the osprey. In most cases where an osprey has begun nest construction on our facilities, they have moved their nest to the newly constructed platform.

In many cases, they are already checking out the platform before the crew even gets the bucket truck out of the air.

In all, Salem Electric has installed 17 nesting platforms throughout our service area, including platforms on three of our four river crossing structures. These structures range from 90 to 113 feet high and have all made suitable nesting sites for osprey.

Salem Electric is dedicated to the reduction of bird mortalities. Any contact with an overhead line is potentially dangerous for these birds and their nesting materials are a challenge for our crews who work very hard to maintain reliable and safe electric service for our members.
As a non-profit electric cooperative, each member receiving electricity from Salem Electric is an owner of the company. Electricity is brought to you at cost with no excess expenses built into your bill.

To date, Salem Electric has refunded capital credits to members who had service with Salem Electric through 2000. Capital credits are returned to members each fall with board approval.

Here are some commonly asked questions about capital credits:

**What are capital credits?**

As a non-profit organization, revenues received by Salem Electric in excess of actual operating costs are allocated to the cooperative members as capital credits.

**When can I expect to receive a capital credit refund?**

Each year the board decides whether the current financial condition of the cooperative allows for the distribution of capital credits. (The board has adopted a policy of allocating 5% of the outstanding credits, basically a 20-year cycle.)

**If I move away from the area, will I lose my capital credits?**

When a member moves from Salem Electric’s service area they stop earning capital credits. However, credits earned prior to that time still belong to the member. If a member moves off Salem Electric’s service, they should provide us with their forwarding address and continue to notify us of future address changes. Without current contact information it is difficult for us to notify members when capital credits become payable. Capital credits are also payable to the heirs of members.

**Are capital credits money sitting in a bank account earning interest?**

No, this is not money in the bank. Capital credits represent funds that have been invested in the electric utility plant.

To date, Salem Electric has paid over $25,000,000 in capital credits to members.
August 23, 2016

Presented by:
Alicia Bonesteel
Secretary/Treasurer

Board Information: The NWPPA Director Compensation Survey is reviewed annually by the board to compare SE director compensation to other Oregon co-ops.

Administrative Services: About 15% of Salem Electric’s BPA power bill is for power used, with other variables such as demand, making up the rest. Weather and the number of days temperatures are at extreme levels also impact Salem Electric’s wholesale power costs.

Engineering & Operations: Transformer maintenance is nearly complete at Salem Substation. Staff is looking forward to having all four substations up and running.

Manager’s Report: Salem Electric is taking steps toward safety, security, and wellness of employees by improving existing conditions or implementing new processes in numerous areas including: gate improvements, upgrading exterior doors, locks on interior doors, surveillance cameras, slip resistant floors, threat assessment, parking lot modifications, ongoing cybersecurity testing and training, air quality tests, off-site record storage, HVAC improvements, drinking water tests, seismic evaluation, disaster preparedness plan, business continuity plan, safety and wellness programs, as well as continued employee education in various areas.

Effective with the September 27, 2016 board meeting, all regular board meetings will begin at 6 PM.

SalemElectric.com — Outage & Safety Management

The winter season is fast-approaching and Salem Electric wants you to be prepared in the event of a power outage or a winter weather emergency. Visit SalemElectric.com and click the Outage & Safety tab for information on emergency and outage preparedness.

INFO BULLETIN OCTOBER 2016
JOE VAN METER, PRESIDENT

Electric Co-op Month

I’m a big supporter of the cooperative business model and the seven cooperative principles. I’ve been a member of Salem Electric for 44 years and during my 12 years on the board I’ve learned a lot about co-ops.

Our member-oriented programs provide a variety of ways to pay your bill, save money, and manage your account; and our reliability is one of the best in the nation. But what stands out the most is a staff that is dedicated to customer service. Our staff does their best to resolve members’ concerns, and based on the positive comments we regularly receive from members, staff is doing a great job.

We try to meet the communication needs of our members by providing printed and electronic information, face-to-face interactions at our office (thousands monthly), and of course email.

Our staff is always looking for ways to better serve our members and that will never change. A commitment to customer service, reliability, energy efficiency, and clean renewable power, that’s the Salem Electric way, and the co-op way.

The seven co-op principles not only guide staff through their decision-making process to meet their annual goals and the Board’s expectations, but also serve as a guide to assess how utilities compare to other businesses. I’ve heard others say it, and I agree—the cooperative business model is by far the best way to run a business.

Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to these core set of principles. These principles, along with the cooperative purpose of improving quality of life for their members, make electric co-ops different from other utilities.

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members’ Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Meeting with Congressman Schrader

Salem Electric board member Jerry Berger, and general manager Terry Kelly, along with other public power representatives, met with U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader at Canby Utility Board in August. The meeting, organized by the Northwest Public Power Association, gave the utility representatives in attendance the opportunity to discuss utility industry and energy issues facing Oregon’s public utilities.