



LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Powerline

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cool this summer! Energy Star certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

FROM THE MANAGER

We are Happy to Answer Your Questions

Preparation for the LJEC Annual Meeting, as well as quarterly meetings of various partner organizations (KEC, KEPCO, etc.) occupied much of the time we have normally devoted to our consolidation meetings in April. However, we have also started to spread the word throughout the community about our alliance with Kaw Valley.

Members of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce invited Assistant Manager Chris Parr to speak at their monthly breakfast. Approximately 25 members attended the meeting, which was held at Colonial Acres in Oskaloosa. Parr provided details of how the alliance is changing some of the ways we do business at the cooperative. He explained that by combining duties and utilizing best practices, we can partner with Kaw Valley and reduce our projected costs by over \$13.5 million in the next 10 years.

Questions were raised about rumors of "significant" spending on security measures and closing the McLouth office. Parr provided members with facts about some recent updates to security cameras, as well as the possible addition of fencing around the property to control access for the purpose of employee safety and also to secure our copper and metal from theft. The protection of our employees is something we take very seriously.

He also emphasized that there is not, nor has there ever been, discussion of closing the McLouth office. All current employees of LJEC and Kaw Valley will continue to report to the same location they are reporting now. We are partners in the communities we serve and closure of either office has never been a consideration.

I share this with you to give you an example of why we would like to be invited to speak at your events. Please call our office and we will find a spot that will work on your calendar. If you are a member of a Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimist, Chamber of Commerce or any other civic or volunteer group, we would welcome the opportunity to speak with your group about our alliance. We feel that the best way to dispel rumors and provide you with factual information moving ahead is to speak directly to you and your neighbors.

The cooperative is a democratic, member driven, member-owned and member-controlled organization. The answers to your questions and the facts behind our operations are as close as a phone call or a trip to the office. We will continue to keep you updated through *Kansas Country Living* and on our website, www.ljec.coop.



Steve Foss

DeMaranville, Broxterman & McAfee Win Youth Competition

LJEC held our annual Youth Tour competition March 22. Students vied for one of three trips sponsored by LJEC.

Ten applicants were interviewed. LJEC's 2014 winners Tamara Drinkard, Valley Falls; Madison Ernzen, Lansing; and Leah Parsons, Christian Valley/Pleasant Ridge also attended to answer the applicants' questions.

EMMA DEMARANVILLE, from Tonganoxie High School, won first place and selected the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. She will start her trip with a tour of the Kansas State Capitol and Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative. From there, she will head to Washington, D.C., where she will meet with numerous elected officials from Kansas and have the opportunity to tour the U. S. Capitol. She will also tour many historical sites and memorials. DeMaranville will be joining over 1,600 youth from other electric cooperatives around the country to



Emma DeMaranville
Washington, D.C. Winner



Madelyn Broxterman
Steamboat Springs, CO, Winner



Carissa McAfee
Steamboat Springs, CO, Winner

learn more about the U.S. government and how it functions.

MADelyn BROXTERMAN, from Jeff West High School, and **CARISSA MCAFEE**, JCN High School, placed second and third respectively. Both McAfee and Broxterman will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO. Attendees at the camp include students sponsored by electric cooperatives from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Students are assigned to small breakout groups that work together to form a working cooperative, including a

board of directors and general manager. There are numerous leadership exercises and programs presented throughout their weeklong trip. Students also tour the Trapper Coal Mine and Craig Power Generation Plant, as well as sites around Steamboat Springs.

LJEC has sponsored the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour trip since 1962 and the Colorado trip since 1978. Over 87 local students have benefited from this program. The cooperative is proud to support initiatives that directly impact the youth in our local community.

Keep Your Family Safe Around Downed Power Lines

Accidents, severe storms, and other disasters can cause power lines to come down. With one wrong move before, during, or after a disaster, a life can be lost. Know the right steps to take to keep you and your family safe:

- ▶ If you see downed power lines, or other damaged electrical equipment, notify the local electric utility as soon as possible because the lines could still be live.
- ▶ Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same.
- ▶ Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live and dangerous.
- ▶ Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay clear of fallen power lines and damaged areas that could hide a hazard. Be alert during clean-up efforts.
- ▶ Treat all power lines as if they are energized until there is certainty that power has been disconnected.
- ▶ If a power line has landed on the ground, there is the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay far away, and warn others to do the same.
- ▶ Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- ▶ If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact emergency personal or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- ▶ If power lines should fall on your vehicle while you are driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call 785-472-4021 for help, and stay inside until utility crews say it is safe to get out. The only exception would be if fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.
- ▶ Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or backup generators.

Putting Safety First This Month & Throughout the Year

It's May—and LJEC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is the top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in approximately 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- ▶ Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- ▶ Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- ▶ All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- ▶ The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- ▶ The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the

wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.

- ▶ Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- ▶ Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- ▶ Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route—they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.

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Poor Attic Insulation

Does Your Attic Insulation Make the Grade?

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You SAVE!**

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IF IT'S NOT INSULATED, NEITHER ARE YOU.

REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.
Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.



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