



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central *Electric News*

June 2011



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939

West Central Electric Cooperative: Looking out for you

With all that is wrong in the world today, there are still those who believe that above all, integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to our local communities -- the four core values of Touchstone Energy cooperatives -- are top priorities. That's why Touchstone Energy cooperatives like West Central Electric are committed to providing our members with the highest standards of service.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, and are committed to providing reliable electricity at the lowest price possible. In short, co-ops "look out" for the members they serve.

So when you see or hear "West Central Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative," you know we're here looking out for you.

West Central Electric's 72nd Annual Meeting Friday, August 5, 2011 * University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg



ELECTRO MAN IS D.C. BOUND!...First-place Youth Tour winner Dakota Ross is congratulated by WCE Board President Donna Matthews. Ross (who took on the persona of modern, energy-saving superhero Electro Man) and two of his Kingsville High School classmates, will be on their way to the nation's capital in June. (*Complete Youth Tour coverage on page 3.*)

Cooperative will return more than \$1,000,000 to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return more than \$1 million to its members in capital credits refunds in July, according to WCE Office Manager Sandy Starke.

Checks will be mailed to members in July for the following amounts for the specified years:

- ◆ 100% of WCE's and CFC's allocation for 1993
- ◆ 2% of WCE's allocations for the years 1994-2010

If you purchased electricity from the cooperative during any of these time periods, you should receive a check. Checks will not be issued for under \$5.00.

Checks will be mailed on July 1, 2011. Members who have not received a check by Aug. 1, 2011, and feel they should have, may contact Sandy Starke at 1-800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131.

Think about safety in the good ole' summertime

Summer means warmer weather and longer days, and more time for you to be outside playing, swimming, working on the yard and all of the other activities that go with the good ole' summertime. West Central Electric Cooperative urges you to take a few minutes to think about safety when you are outside this summer.

Make sure children play in a safe place away from overhead power lines and pad-mounted transformers -- those "big green boxes."

Fly kites away from overhead lines. When swimming, make sure music is played through battery-operated boom boxes, or that those plugged in are located far away from the pool area. Set plugged-in devices inside near an open

window. If using artificial lighting after dark, keep power cords outside of the pool area.

When doing yard work, make sure all cords are approved for outdoor use, and all outlets are protected with a GFCI.

If planting trees or shrubs, building fences or other landscaping, contact Missouri One-Call at 1-800-DIG-RITE and have underground utilities located before you dig.

When painting the house, installing windows or anything that requires the use of a ladder, look up first and stay away from any overhead lines.

Taking a few minutes to think about electric safety will help you enjoy that good ole' summertime that is long overdue!



WCE offices will be closed Monday, July 4 in observation of the Independence Day holiday.



Cool your A/C bill this summer with these easy-to-follow tips: selecting the right room A/C...
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Winners of the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship are named...page 4

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24-Hour Number:
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General Manager:
Mike Gray

Board of Directors:
Donna Matthews, President
Max Swisegood, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Dale Jarman, Asst. Sect.
Charles Baile, Director
Clark Bredehoeft, Director
Ron Steelman, Director
Stan Rhodes, Director

Cool your air conditioning bill...

Follow these tips to lower your summer bill

Air conditioning is the energy hog for summer in Missouri. According to consumer energy adviser Michael Bluejay, window units use 500 to 1,440 watts of electricity compared to 3,500 for central units. Contrast that to the 75 watts that a ceiling fan uses. All these watts add up to as much as 16 percent of your energy bill — even more when it's really hot and humid.

Start reducing that bill by replacing old units with new, efficient ones. That "good as new" 10-year-old unit may not be as good as you think it is. New energy-efficient models can save up to 50 percent on cooling bills, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Some websites with helpful information on air conditioning include those for Energy Star, the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Division. Don't forget your local cooperative and University of Missouri Extension office. Michael Bluejay at www.michaelbluejay.com/electricity/how-much.html has a calculator for figuring out how much electricity your air conditioner and other appliances use.

Here are some tips for reducing your air conditioning energy bill from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Energy:

Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible — every degree you raise the thermostat uses about 4 percent less energy.

Use a programmable thermostat to adjust the setting on your air conditioner at night or when no one is home; avoid using the air conditioner when you are not home.

Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread cool air effectively through your home.

Change filters once a month during the season and clean evaporator coils and condenser coils as needed; use a "fin comb" to reposition bent coil fins back to original.

Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner; it won't cool your house any faster and could result

in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Don't place lamps or TVs near your air conditioner's thermostat; the heat from the appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.

Shade your existing condenser with a screen or foliage so it's not in direct sunlight, or place it on the north side of your house if you are adding a new unit — you may reduce your energy cost by 1 percent to 2 percent; however, don't

obstruct air flow around the unit.

Locate a room air conditioner in a window or wall near the center of the room and on the shadiest part of the house; seal gaps between the unit and the window with foam weatherstripping



Selection and maintenance tips for room air conditioners

Room or window air conditioners are a good supplement to a central air-conditioning unit or for cooling single rooms versus an entire house.

According to Energy Savers, you can plug smaller room units into any 15- or 20-amp, 115-volt circuit not shared with other major appliances. If your unit draws more than 7.5 amps, it will need its own dedicated 115-volt or 230-volt circuit.

Efficiency in room units is measured by the energy efficiency ratio (EER). The higher the rating, the more efficient the air conditioner. National standards require a range of 8.0 to 9.8 or higher. Energy Star-qualified units have even higher EER ratings.

EER has improved through the years. If you replace your 1970s'-era room unit with an EER of 5 with a new unit rated at 10, you'll cut your air-conditioning costs in half.

When selecting a new unit, size is important. An air conditioner typically needs 20 British thermal units per square foot of living space, says Energy Savers. A bigger unit than you actually need may not cool the room uniformly, and it will cycle on and off too frequently to remove humidity.

Also consider how easily the air filter can be changed and where the controls are located. Buy a unit with a digital readout for the thermostat setting and a built-in timer.

Once you've purchased a room air conditioner, install it in a shady spot or cover it if sunlight will reach it directly. Set the unit's thermostat as high as comfortable and don't lower it when you first get home, because it won't cool your home any faster than leaving it at a set temperature. Make sure you don't have lamps or televisions near the thermostat, as these could trigger the unit to cycle on more frequently.

Replace filters monthly during the season and remove debris, such as leaves, twigs and grass cuttings, from the compressor unit. If possible, locate an outside compressor unit on the north side of the house. If that is not possible, try to position the compressor where it will be shaded as much as possible.

If you leave the window unit in place during the winter, wrap it on the inside, and weatherstrip around it to block air infiltration. If wrapped on the outside, warm, moist air from inside the home can condense and freeze inside the unit, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Attention WCE Members...

Don't forget you will receive a special Annual Meeting issue of Electric News which will arrive in mid-July as an independent publication. This publication is your official notice of the meeting. It will contain information on the annual meeting scheduled for Friday, August 5, 2011, as well as board candidate profiles.

You will also receive your official registration card which will arrive along with the bill you receive the first week of August 2011.

This card must be brought to the annual meeting in order to register for prizes and vote in the board of directors election.

2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour

to Washington, D.C.



Youth Tour 1st place

Dakota Ross



Youth Tour 2nd place

Kaylee Herring



Youth Tour 3rd place

Courtney Welch

Kingsville students will head to D.C.

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo. – Three Kingsville high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C. Dakota Ross, Kaylee Herring and Courtney Welch were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 10-16 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2011 competition delivered their essays orally during the second stage of competition, with the top three winners receiving the trips to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

West Central's delegates, their teachers, principals and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 10 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives and Library, and the Supreme Court as well as meet with their local representatives. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 80-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Cathedral, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River, and attend a Washington Nationals vs. St. Louis Cardinals baseball game.

Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by all approximately 1,500 delegates from 44 states, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their senators and representatives.

A total of 76 entries were received from six different schools.

CYCLE delegates will visit state capital

Local students Lauren Thomas of Kingsville High School, Nathan Arndt of Wellington-Napoleon High School and Nicole Ludlam of Crest Ridge High School will represent WCE at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience July 13-15 in Jefferson City.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top-ranked cooperative youth conference in the nation. During the conference, students will spend a day at the Missouri State Capitol Building, learn about cooperatives, participate in leadership and team-building activities, and hear top-notch speakers such as Darrell Scott, whose daughter, Rachel, was killed in the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, and Mike Schalappi, wheelchair basketball paralympic medalist, whose message is, "If you can't stand up -- stand out."



CYCLE WINNERS...Students winning the trip to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in Jefferson City are congratulated by District 122 State Representative Mike McGhee, District 21 Senator Bill Stouffer, WCE Board President Donna Matthews, WCE General Manager Mike Gray and WCE Board Secretary Robert Simmons. (L-r) McGhee, Stouffer, Lauren Thomas, Nathan Arndt, Nicole Ludlam, Matthews, Gray and Simmons.

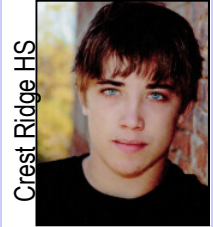
Congratulations to the 2011 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship winners



Sweet Springs HS
Kathleen Brandt
Randall & Janet Brandt
Biology/Psychology



Crest Ridge HS
Bethany Grainger
Byron Grainger/Billie Chamberlin
Radiologic Technology



Crest Ridge HS
Tanner Wagoner
Terry & Debbie Wagoner
Structural Engineering



Warrensburg HS
Brandon Godfrey
Jeff & Karen Godfrey
Computer Science



Warrensburg HS
Clifford Howe
Elizabeth Socolofsky-Howe
Graphic Design



Warrensburg HS
Amy Fair
Charles & Kaye Fair
Art/Photography



Odessa HS
Thad Madsen
Brent & Bessie Madsen
Civil Engineering



Odessa HS
Hannah Williams
Chris & Sarah Williams
Physical Therapy



Odessa HS
Alexandria Cockrell
Brenda Koch
Biology (Pre-Med)



Odessa HS
Molly Malott
Mark & Linda Malott
Nursing-BSN



Odessa HS
Sarah Malott
Mark & Linda Malott
Family & Consumer Sci. Ed



Odessa HS
Chance Malott
Mark & Linda Malott
Chemical Engineering



Odessa HS
Trey Shippy
Virgil & Hilda Shippy
Religious Studies/Ministry



Odessa HS
Sarah Evatt
Harold Evatt & Elizabeth Evatt
Art Ed./Aviation Mechanics



Odessa HS
Nicole Nickels
Brett & Jeanette Nickels
English



Oak Grove HS
Sarah Bestgen
Steve & Lori Bestgen
Dietetics



Oak Grove HS
Rebecca McPherson
Otis & Becky McPherson
Health & Nutrition



Oak Grove HS
Kristen Sapp
Greg & Marilyn Sapp
Nursing



Oak Grove HS
Morgan Hopper
Derek & Michelle Hopper
Nursing



Leeton HS
Kelsey Jo Parsons
Chad & AnJanel Parsons
Nursing



Concordia HS
Tina Guier
Tommi & Earl Cook
Business Management



Lafayette Co. C-I HS
Andrea Arbogast
Ralph & Susan Arbogast
Mechanical Engineering



Lafayette Co. C-I HS
Victoria Haston
James & Lucinda Haston
Psychology



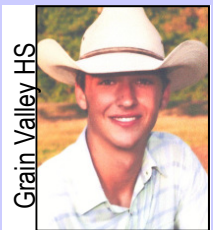
Lafayette Co. C-I HS
Clinton Schlatter
Walt & Kim Schlatter
Computer Info. Sys. Mgmt.



Lafayette Co. C-I HS
Dustin Schlatter
Walt & Kim Schlatter
Management



Holden HS
Emily Brockhaus
Curt & Ruth Brockhaus
Biology Education



Grain Valley HS
Chase Gabriel
Lance & Valerie Gabriel
Animal Ag. Management



Wellington-Napoleon
Emily Grumke
Ross & Karen Grumke
Academy of Art University



Wellington-Napoleon
Savannah Pate
Lisa Pate Hill
Dental Hygiene



Wellington-Napoleon
Taylor Dieckmann
Roger & Karen Dieckmann
Mechanical Engineering



Knob Noster HS
Aubrey Wallace
Kenneth & Cathy Wallace
Nursing



Chilhowee HS
Kayla Anstine
Bobby & Trina Anstine
Agriculture Business



St. Paul Lutheran HS
Dana Peters
Byron & Cheryl Peters
Physical Therapy

