



ElectricNews

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

Allen assures members their co-op stands with them

“The quickest and most efficient way to solve an issue is for all parties to work together,” WCE Board President Densil Allen, Jr. told cooperative members gathered at the 77th



Densil Allen, Jr.

Annual Meeting of Members Aug. 5 in Warrensburg. “I like to think that is a great example of how our electric cooperative system works,” he said.

Allen told members that the end-goal of keeping our local communities strong lies in the cooperative and its members standing together along with our state and national cooperative system to make sure our members' voices are heard, that cooperatives are taking care of the environment and that they are providing members with safe, reliable affordable electricity.

He went on to describe how cooperative representatives from the local level at WCE to the national level at NRECA are staying informed on issues that can affect cooperative members and their way of life, as well as keeping the membership informed so they can join in when called upon to be a voice to legislators.

He spoke of efforts to take care of the environment and electric coop-

Continued on page 2



43 Years and Counting...

As of Aug. 5, 2016, Johnny Nichol of Warrensburg hasn't missed an annual meeting for more than four decades. Here, he visits with WCE Apprentice Lineman Nathan Johnson before registering and taking part in his 43rd cooperative membership meeting. Members gathered at the University of Central Missouri's Multipurpose Building Aug. 5 for the 77th annual meeting.

Changes implemented for annual meeting

WCE uses results of 2015 Annual Meeting Member Survey to make improvements

After several years of ballot issues and tight director races, WCE members attending the 77th annual meeting experienced a more laid-back agenda with a few changes implemented as a result of last year's survey on meeting procedures.

This year, registration was moved back to the front of the arena so members could register as they entered. The meal line was also moved back to the front of the arena to eliminate a longer walk for those who are not able to get around as easily.

Perhaps the biggest change was in voting procedures, with the abolishment of proxy voting as voted on by members attending last year's annual meeting. More than 200 members who were unable to attend the meeting participated in the mail-in voting that was established in the same bylaw amendment that eliminated proxies.

“I think the mail-in voting went

smoothly,” General Manager Mike Gray said. “We had approximately 300 members take advantage of that.”

The traditional large crowd was on hand with 681 registered members and a total attendance of more than 1,300.

Director Election

In the only race of the evening, incumbent director Sandra Streit, District 4, defeated challenger Darlene Buckstead 394-187. District 1 Director Max Swisgood and District 2 Director

Stan Rhodes ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation.

Other Meeting Highlights

Other highlights of the meeting included a presentation of WCE's winning Youth Tour essay by Abby Bertz of Odessa High School. Bertz attended the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour as a representative of WCE, and delivered her winning essay titled, “Providing reliable, affordable electricity and taking

Continued on page 3



Election inspectors collect ballots from members voting in the District 4 director election.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:

506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

24-Hour Number:

1-800-491-3803

General Manager:

Mike Gray

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors:

Densil Allen, Jr. President
Clark Bredehoeft, Vice-Pres.
Dale Jarman, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.
Max Swisgood, Director
Richard Strobel, Director
Sandra Streit, Director
Jeremy Ahmann, Director

Allen assures members their co-op stands with them

From page 1

eratives' support of renewable energy. Allen reminded members that the cooperatives have been on the forefront of providing renewable energy to members in the form of wind farms which currently provide enough electricity to power 181,000 member households per year, among other methods.

He spoke of the responsibility cooperatives have to continue to supply our members with reliable and affordable electricity as they look for additional and better ways to incorporate renewables and take care of the environment.

"While taking care of the environment, however, we must also realize that you need, expect and deserve to have safe, affordable, reliable power. While our efforts in using renewables is strong, we know that in reality, the

sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. A reliable form of

that operate around the clock will have a place among our power supply options

meters serving 2.1 million people.

"The only way to do that and still make sure those 2.1 million people can afford that power is to maintain a diverse power supply which includes coal, natural gas, wind energy and hydro power, as well as providing an energy efficiency program for our members," he said.

Allen ended by telling members their cooperative leaders take their jobs and commitment to them seriously.

"We know that you put us here to stand with you to keep our communities strong," he said. "We do that, in part, by taking care of the environment, making sure your voices are heard, and providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. And we will continue to stand strong – right there along with you – into whatever the future may bring."

"The only way to (provide 2.1 million members with reliable electricity) and still make sure those 2.1 million people can afford that power is to maintain a diverse power supply which includes coal, natural gas, wind energy and hydro power, as well as providing an energy-efficiency program for our members."

--Densil Allen, Jr., WCE Board President

energy must be kept as a back-up, ready to take over when the renewables are not available," he said. "Therefore, coal or natural gas baseload power plants

for a long time."

Allen said cooperative power supplier Associated Electric Cooperative generates power to supply more than 875,000



Boys' grand prize winner Bryson Elliott gets some help picking up his bike from his brother.



Girls' grand prize winner Kaelyn Counts picks up her new bike at the WCE meeting.

Board elects officers, Allen will stay on as president

Three incumbents were elected to serve for an additional three years during the business meeting at the 77th WCE Annual Meeting Aug. 5 in Warrensburg.

In District 1, Max Swisgood and in District 2 Stan Rhodes ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation. In District 4, incumbent Sandra Streit (394) defeated challenger Darlene Buckstead (187). During their re-organizational meeting, all officers retained their positions as voted

on by the board.

Densil Allen, Jr. of Warrensburg will remain as president; Clark Bredehoeft of Blackburn, will remain as vice president; Dale Jarman of Holden will remain as treasurer Robert Simmons of Warrensburg will remain as secretary and Stan Rhodes of Corder will remain as assistant secretary.



Allen



Directors re-elected for a three-year term include (l-r) Max Swisgood, District 1; Stan Rhodes, District 2 and Sandra Streit, District 4.

Gray reports a good year and a strong cooperative

In his annual report to the members, General Manager Mike Gray reported that the cooperative is in good shape both physically and financially, and that directors continue to keep the cooperative and its members' best interest at the forefront.

"With the ever-changing dynamics of our industry, from fossil-fuel regulations and even individual solar energy generation, your board members are keeping informed and studying the issues so they can make the best decisions for WCE as we move forward," he said.

Gray kept his remarks brief in response to the member survey conducted at last year's annual meeting that showed members favored having a detailed report in print in the program and the oral address given as a summary of that information.

Gray mentioned the change in voting procedures which implemented mail-in voting and eliminated proxy voting, as approved in a bylaw amendment at last year's annual meeting.

Capital credit allocations were addressed, with Gray letting members know that allocations for 1996 and

1997 would appear on the August bill.

He also addressed the recent rate increase to the service availability charge, which took effect in April.

"All factors indicate that rates should remain stable through the end of 2017, and hopefully longer," Gray said. "If there are any changes, we will keep you informed through our newsletter, *West Central Electric News* (printed) in your monthly *Rural Missouri* magazine.

Gray also took time to recognize the employees for outstanding work over the past year.

"I have the privilege of being surrounded every day by some of the finest and most dedicated people who work in this industry," he said. "They are the reason this co-op runs as smoothly as it does."

He also recognized the time and effort put in by the board of directors, who he stressed requires much more than just attending a board meeting once a month.

He ended by thanking members, saying he looks forward to continuing to provide them with the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

"With the ever-changing dynamics of our industry, from fossil-fuel regulations and even individual solar energy generation, your board members are keeping informed and studying the issues so they can make the best decisions for WCE as we move forward."

--Mike Gray, General Manager



WCE General Manager Mike Gray reports on the state of the cooperative.

Changes implemented for 77th annual meeting

From page 1

care of the environment -- Can we do both?" Bertz described the cooperative as successfully balancing the equation of providing reliable and affordable electricity with keeping environmental friendliness in the forefront.

Members also heard an abbreviated report from General Manager Mike Gray, and an abbreviated address on the state of the cooperative by President Densil Allen, Jr. Both reports were printed in their entirety in the evening's program, but the presentation given during the meeting included only the highlights as requested by members in last year's survey.

"I think all of these changes were positive ones, and seemed to work out well in our first year of implementing them," Gray said.

In addition to the business meeting, members were able to visit informational booths by vendors such as Missouri One Call, Johnson County Community Health and the Johnson County Master Gardeners, who also provided two plants to be given away with the evening's prize drawings. WCE linemen were on hand to give live demonstrations on electrical safety and how power outages are located and repaired.

Staff from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives were on hand to educate members on the Fairness Down



Chris Massman, Member Services and Grassroots coordinator for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, visits with WCE members David Dickmeyer and Karen Midland of Higginsville regarding the Fairness Down the Lines campaign, which ensures that net metering laws ensure that all cooperative members pay their fair share to use the electric grid.

the Lines issue, which aims to ensure all cooperative members pay their fair share to use the electric grid, including those who install solar panels.

Members could also receive information on the WCE rebate program and Exede satellite internet services. Upon arrival, members were registered for

prizes, including a free month of electricity (won by Gary Bauer of Corder) and several energy certificates.



Gabriel Daly, 5, of England, visits the linemen's booth at the annual meeting with mom, Tina (left), and great-grandmother, Maryann Keyser of Concordia.



Member Services Manager Steve Moore (right) presents Gary Bauer with the grand prize, one free month of electricity.



(Left Photo) Barbara Kaufman was the winner of the Vizio 32" television donated by NW Electric. (Above) Mark Magel takes a moment during the meeting to express his thanks to WCE for providing good service.



Emma Allen, flanked by her father, WCE Board President Densil Allen, Jr., sings the National Anthem at the start of the business meeting.



Arch York with Missouri One Call visits with annual meeting goers about the importance of calling 811 before you dig.

2016 Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Grand Prize Free Month Electricity
Gary Bauer

TV (NW Electric)
Barbara Kaufman

\$100 Energy Certificates
Bonnie Brister & Kathryn Mitchell
William Cox

\$50 Energy Certificates
Karen Hibdon
Larry & Martha Hill
Paul Nolte
Richard & Elnora Wagoner

\$25 Energy Certificates
Archie & Chris Specker
Harley & Mary Nussbaum
Chris Parrott
Albert & Barbara Rampone
Jimmy Thompson
Roger & Faye Strahle
Cecilie Ryan
Claud & Pat Asbury

KIDS--Grand Prize Bike & Helmet
Bryson Elliott
Kaelyn Counts

Lego Building Set
Marlys Kanneman
Otto Oetting

Stuffed Buddy Bear
Max Krewson
Tatum Martin

Model Bucket Truck
Owen Downey
Carter Schnakenberg

Dory Insulated Lunchbox
Elon Blevins

Plants (Jonsson Co. Master Gardners)
Morris Hamlin
Bill & Karen Hoepfner

CYCLE challenges students to become greater leaders

What better place to be on a hot July day than sitting in a hotel conference room with more than 100 of your peers? NOWHERE -- if that conference is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience and your peers are among the best and brightest the state of Missouri has to offer!

"We want to be a leadership development stepping stone for the youth," said

Barry Hart, CEO of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, the sponsoring organization of the conference. "By us getting involved in helping develop their leadership potential, we hope these delegates go back to their communities, continue to learn from local leaders, educators and co-op staff so when they get into positions of leadership later in life, they won't forget the cooperatives' way of thinking."

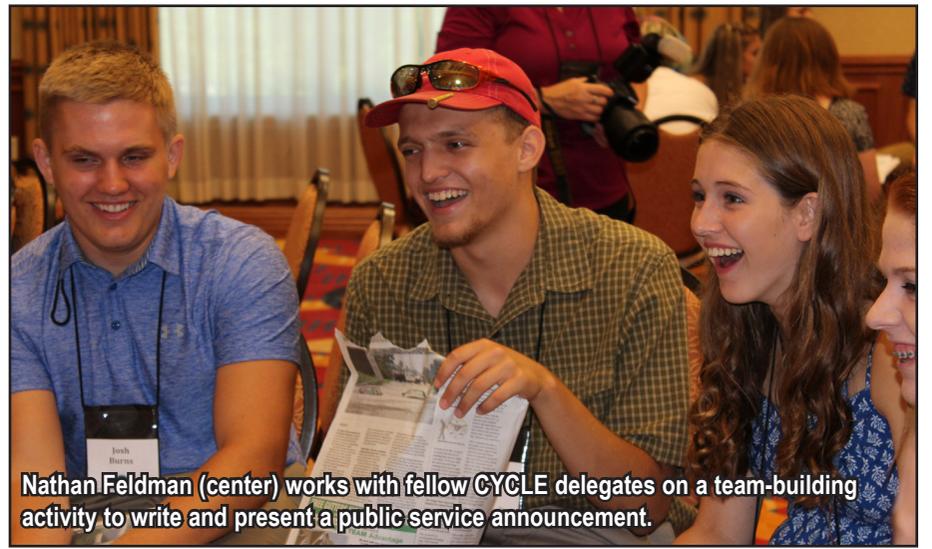
Each year, Missouri electric cooperatives send delegates to Jefferson City



WCE CYCLE delegates visit the Missouri State Capitol Building. Front row (l-r) Katie Haston, Lafayette County C-I High School and Izzy Drake, Santa Fe High School. Back row (l-r) Nathan Feldman, Trisha Everhart and Tiffany Pence of Crest Ridge High School.

Barry Hart, CEO of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, the sponsoring organization of the confer-

ence. Delegates secure a spot at for three days of leadership activities, cooperative education and hands-on government.



Nathan Feldman (center) works with fellow CYCLE delegates on a team-building activity to write and present a public service announcement.

this award-winning youth conference through their participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour and CYCLE essay contest.

From the introductory "Can You Find Me?" game, students are energized and off and running from daybreak until lights out, forging friendships and discovering more about themselves.

While the conference is short, CYCLE is jam-packed with activity from the team-building exercise "Build a Cooperative" game, to a boisterous game of Missouri Jeopardy, a segment when the teams perform a TV public service announcement based on something they've read in that day's newspaper and a session where the youth learn about their personalities and character through a fun questionnaire.

Of course, what would a trip to Jefferson City be without a tour of

Missouri's beautiful Capitol? While there, the students get to sit at the desks on the floor of the House of Representatives and debate a bill they've written with their CYCLE peers. The fun continues each evening with activities such as a barbecue at the park, a hypnotist and motivational sessions with speakers such as the Rachel's Challenge group, who speaks to students about how they can start a chain reaction of compassion in their own communities. In the Rachel's Challenge presentation, they hear about Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, and how she stood up and made a difference in the lives of others in just a few short years.

For more information about the 2017 Youth Tour and CYCLE contest, contact Heather Hoflander at 800-491-3803 or heather@wcecoop.com.

WCE Life Support Equipment list will be updated

In an effort to better serve its members, West Central Electric Cooperative updates the Life Support Equipment List each year.

"Although we add new entries to the Life Support Equipment List as members call and request to be placed on the list, we seldom get members calling to let us know they need to be removed," Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said.

"In an effort to keep the list as up-to-date as possible, we create a new list every year."

Members are asked to fill out the following form, and mail it to West Central Electric NO LATER THAN October 31, 2016 to ensure their

name appears on the new list.

The Life Support Equipment List is used by cooperative personnel in the event of a planned outage, for

made in a certain order," Line Superintendent Randy Burkeybile said. "It does no good to go out and repair an individual service when the main line is down.

Until the main line is repaired, there won't be any power to the individual line."

Members requesting their name be placed on the Life Support Equipment List should mail the following form to the Higginsville office.

If you or a family member is on oxygen, please let us know how many hours of back-up you have available.

Please keep in mind that if we do not hear from you by September 30, 2016, your name will be removed from the current Life Support Equipment List.

If your name needs to remain on the WCE Life Support Equipment List, You MUST fill out the following form and mail it to West Central Electric Cooperative before October 31, 2016, or your name will be removed from the current list.

example, during extensive repairs or maintenance. The list is not used as a priority list to get service turned back on in the event of an outage.

"The reason this is not a priority service list is because in the event of an outage, repairs have to be

Request for 2016-17 Life Support Equipment List inclusion

(Please fill out all information completely.)

Name to appear on list: _____

Name on WCE account: _____

Account Number: _____ Location Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

Life support equipment requiring electricity to operate: _____

If on oxygen, how many hours back-up? _____

Please fill out all information completely and mail to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held June 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen, Jr. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Stan Rhodes and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, General Counsel Shawn Battagler and Bill Edwards, CFC.

COST OF SERVICE AND RATE REVIEW

Bill Edwards of CFC gave a presentation on cost of service and rate making.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors held May 26, 2016 were approved.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR MAY

An itemized list of expenditures for May was presented to the board, and the payment of the bills was ratified.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following May 2016 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with month and budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; Treasurer's Report and the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report.

SAFETY REPORT

Gray presented the safety report and reported 54 days without a lost-time accident.

MEMBERSHIPS

The applications submitted for membership in the cooperative were accepted and approved. Directors reviewed a list of requests for termination of membership in the cooperative which, along with their requests that their billings be deducted from their deposits and the remainder, if any, be refunded to them, were accepted and approved.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray reported on their attendance at the AMEC board meeting. Highlights included and update on the initiative petition and assessment to members, poll results, Consumers for Energy Fairness, lawsuit to block campaign finance ballot measure, executive committee activities, Youth Tour, succession planning and an NRECA scholarship awarded to a WCE member.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported on their attendance at the N.W. meeting. Highlights included discussion regarding substation fuses, cost of service study, closing of ConAgra plant in Trenton and an AECI update regarding operations and sales.

AECI ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Board members reported on their attendance at AECI's annual meeting. Highlights included Jim Jura's retirement celebration and new CEO David Tudor.

FACILITIES DISCUSSION

Gray presented information on cost estimates for updating facilities and presented information regarding engineering and consulting recommendations, bidding and proposals.

ANNUAL MEETING

Gray presented a preliminary agenda for the annual meeting which was approved. The board resolved to appoint cooperative counsel Battagler and parliamentarian of the meeting, and resolved that the ruling of the parliamentarian for all matters, whether substantive or procedural, shall be final. The board discussed voting eligibility and a member request for ballot language from last year's meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month which included an update on annual meeting notices and preparations, the death of Garold Scobee, the new NRECA CEO, an auditor report scheduled, the Governor's breakfast at the state fair, member concerns regarding the rate increase and CFC Integrity Fund. Directors voted to donate \$250 to the CFC Integrity Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • May 2016

	This month	YTD 2016	YTD 2015
Revenue	1,733,990	10,584,876	11,182,083
Power Bill Expense	1,206,916	6,749,153	6,850,307
Operation & Maint. Expense	248,853	1,041,020	1,317,900
Depreciation Expense	166,101	824,353	788,244
Interest Expense	102,164	514,765	537,099
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	1,724,034	9,129,291	9,493,550
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(258,252)	116,168	362,541
Other Margins	6,519	76,433	90,025
TOTAL MARGINS	(251,733)	192,601	452,566

Family announces Hoefer's passing

West Central Electric employees were saddened to learn of the death of retiree Wilma Hoefer, 92, of Higginsville on Aug. 2.

Several current cooperative employees worked with Wilma during her 35 years at WCE. Her son, Wayne, is now the cooperative's senior staking technician.

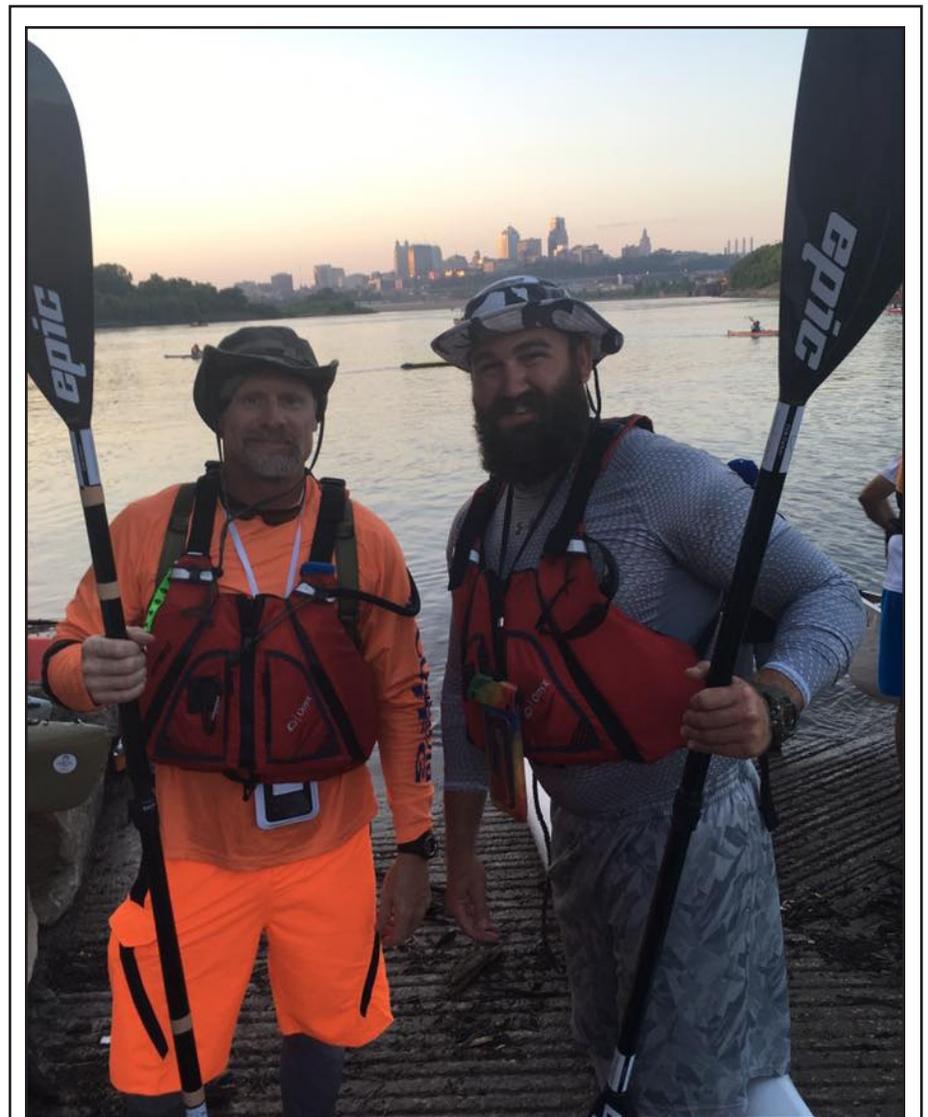
Wilma started her job at WCE in November 1944 as a stenographer. She left in November 1946, but returned in August 1960 and worked as a stenographer, consumer service secretary and capital credit accountant until her retirement on May 1, 1993.

Survivors include her son, Wayne (Joyce); two daughters, Elaine (Pel) Adams and Sharon Hoefer; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Wilma Hoefer

She was preceded in death by her husband, Maurice.



And miles to go before I sleep...WCE employees Eric Wegener (left) and Brandon Heck tackled the mighty Missouri River in July as participants in the annual MR 340, a grueling river race that spans 340 miles across the state from Kansas City to St. Charles. The race, hailed as the world's longest non-stop river race pits man against nature in a course that typically takes nearly three days to finish. Brandon finished in 56th place in 60 hours, 36 minutes. Only 262 racers finished out of the more than 340 that started the race.

There are more than 20 million miles of underground facilities buried in the United States. NEVER dig without knowing where the underground facilities are located.

To place your free notification, call 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or go online at www.mo1call.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**