



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central *Electric News*

May 2012



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



ON THEIR WAY...Four area students will be on their way to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in June. Delegates representing West Central Electric are Kayla Goth, Hali Mieser and Taylor Edwards of Crest Ridge High School and Rachelle Engen of Odessa High School. Five students will represent WCE at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in July. They are Elaine Shannon, Angela Brown and Bailey Clutter all of Odessa High School, Lindsey Feldman of Crest Ridge High School and Rosa Ciocca of Chilhowee High School. (ABOVE) WCE Board Vice President Ron Steelman presents Elaine Shannon with her CYCLE medal and certificate. (Additional Youth Tour and CYCLE coverage on page 3.)

Reminder that cycle billing begins June 1

WCE reminds members that CYCLE BILLING begins June 1. You may either stay with the 15th of the month, or move your due date to the 1st, 8th or 22nd of the month. Bills will still be calculated and mailed approximately two weeks prior to the selected due date, with late fees being assessed after the due date has passed. (If you are on the LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN and choose to change your due date, your level pay will recalculate in June and your CYCLE BILLING will begin in July.)

June is recalculation month for Level Payment Plan

WCE members whose accounts are on the Level Payment Plan are reminded that they will see those amounts recalculate in June 2012.

To qualify for the Level Payment Plan, members must have had service with the cooperative for at least 12 months. Other requirements include:

- ♦ a zero account balance prior to initiating the Level Payment Plan,
- ♦ no returned checks on the account within the past 12 months, and
- ♦ no more than one trip made to the

member's location to collect payment.

Members will continue to receive a statement each month showing the status of the account.

"The Level Payment Plan allows members to spread their higher seasonal bills over the entire year without additional costs or finance charges," Billing Supervisor Sharon Rinne said.

Members may contact the cooperative at 800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131 for more information about the Level Payment Plan or to sign up.

Kate Lee wins English Memorial Scholarship

Dowell, Warren, Turnbow, Mahnken, Shields and Silvers get one-time awards

West Central Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Oak Grove High School senior Kate Lee of Oak Grove as the winner of the 2012 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 award is renewable for four years.

Kate Lee

Lee is the daughter of Robert and Susan Lee. She is a six-year member of the Valley 4-H Explorers, and credits 4-H for making her the person she is today.

"4-H has made me try things that I normally would not have tried," Lee told the scholarship committee during her interview. "4-H has really impacted my life greatly."

Lee is the current Jackson County 4-H



Lee

queen, and says the role has "meant a big step up in responsibility. I have to supervise all aspects of the annual county fair...along with my fellow co-chair.

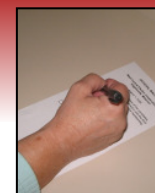
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MAY IS ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH. Pledge to create a family action plan today....page 2



Exede is here! New broadband plans with the fastest speeds around Interested? ...page 2



WCE board names 2012 Nominating Committee, director qualifications are listed...page 4

Headquarters:
7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-2131 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:
506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075
1-816-625-8211

Website:
www.WestCentralElectric.coop

24-Hour Number:
1-800-491-3803

General Manager:
Mike Gray

Board of Directors:
Clark Bredehoeft, President
Ron Steelman, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.
Dale Jarman, Director
Max Swisegood, Director
Densil Allen, Director
Richard Strobel, Director

Humidity is around the corner, but you can still lower your electric bill

Missouri's typically long hot and humid summer is just around the corner. Here's what you can do now to be more energy efficient this summer:

Take care of your air conditioner and fans — If you haven't already attended to your air conditioner, schedule a maintenance check or do your own. Specifically:

- Replace or clean the filters and do that every month the unit is in use
 - Oil the bearing on the blower if your unit is not self-oiling
 - Have the refrigerant level checked, particularly if the unit doesn't appear to be cooling properly
 - Check relays, switches and motors if not cooling properly
 - Make sure fan and compressor are working on outdoor condensers
 - Make sure you haven't tripped a breaker if the unit doesn't come on
 - Set the thermostat low enough for the air conditioner to kick on
- If you need a new unit, consider a high-efficiency one that is Energy Star-qualified. It can save up to 20 percent

on costs and use 25 percent to 40 percent less energy than a new conventional system, according to Energy Star.

Move lamps and TV sets away from room air-conditioning thermostats so the heat from these appliances doesn't trigger the unit to run longer than necessary.

Keep the hot air out — Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home. Add caulking or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows and save as much as 30 percent on your energy bill. Install drapes, awnings or other shading on south- and west-facing windows to block heat. If your budget permits, add insulation to walls (R5 to R6 in Missouri, per Energy Star) and begin replacing single-pane windows with more efficient ones — which are eligible for a federal tax credit of 30 percent.

Also close the flue in your fireplace. Check air ducts for leaks and the level of attic insulation to see if it's settled. R-49 is now the insulation standard for attics in Missouri.

Pledge to honor Electrical Safety Month by creating a family action plan today

Every May, we celebrate Electrical Safety Month. It's a time when we place a spotlight on ways we keep you, our members, safe.

This year, we're focusing on how to keep safe after a storm rolls through. No matter the type of weather or damage to electrical equipment and infrastructure, resulting safety hazards are generally the same.

To stay safe after a major storm or natural disaster strikes, West Central Electric Cooperative urges you to develop a family action plan. Designate a place for everyone to meet after an event. Map out ways to evacuate your home. Create a laminated card with emergency contact names and numbers for each family member. Consider listing a relative or friend who lives far from your community as the point of contact—if your family gets separated, that person can let others know who is safe.

And don't forget pets in your family action plan—many rescue shelters will not accept pets after a catastrophe of some sort, so it's important to decide beforehand where Fido or Tabby can

take up residence for a while.

Also, don't forget to use caution around downed power lines. Lines down after a storm may look harmless, but you can't tell when a line might be live. Never step over a fallen electric line or try to move a downed line or pole yourself. Call your power company, or the local authorities if you don't know the company providing that particular line, to let them know a line is down.

It's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for WCE -- working around electricity is a life-or-death situation every day for many of our employees. As a result, we work hard to instill a culture of safety that our folks can take home with them and live 24/7.

We also strive to raise safety awareness among WCE members. Look for safety tips in *West Central Electric News* each month, and check www.westcentralelectric.coop for more information.

Pledge to honor Electrical Safety Month by fashioning an emergency action plan for your family today. Learn more about weathering storms safely at www.ready.gov.

Interested in high-speed internet?

Exede is here!

If you are interested in high-speed internet, West Central Services, a subsidiary of West Central Electric Cooperative can help.

A new satellite called Exede has been launched, and boasts download speeds 12 times faster than the old WildBlue middle package.

Purchase packages based on the amount of upload and download you want per month. All packages are 12M download and 3M upload.

WildBlue customers may choose to stay on their current satellite and plan,

or change to the new Exede. Current WildBlue customers who transfer to Exede will receive a \$100 discount on equipment.

Prices for Exede start at \$54.99 per month. You also get basic installation free, 24/7 domestic technical support, local, on-site technicians and no lease fees. Service does not require a land line. Equipment is \$199 (\$99 for current WildBlue customers) and the contract length is 24 months. Contact West Central Services for more information or to sign up for service.

Meet our new broadband plans:

PLAN 1:

FASTEST

PLAN 2:

FASTEST

PLAN 3:

FASTEST

Introducing ExedeSM by ViaSat.

3 Plans.

All with super fast

12Mbps* speed.

Think what you could do with
an online experience that fast.

STARTING AT
\$54⁹⁹
PER
MONTH

exedeSM
by ViaSat

West Central Services, LLC
800-342-0245 • 660-584-622

*Contact us for service availability in your area. Service not available in all areas.
Minimum commitment term, early termination fee and/or unreturned equipment fee may apply.
Speeds are "up to" and are not guaranteed. Actual speeds may vary.
Requires a clear view of the southern sky. Exede is a service trademark of ViaSat, Inc.

2012 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Youth Tour Winner

Kayla Goth



Youth Tour Winner

Hali Mieser



Youth Tour Winner

Taylor Edwards



Youth Tour Winner

Rachelle Engen

Area students prepare for 'trip of a lifetime'

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo. – Four area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C.

Kayla Goth, Hali Mieser and Taylor Edwards, all of Crest Ridge High School, and Rachelle Engen of Odessa High School, 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 15-21 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2012 competition participated in the second round March 29 at West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Higginsville. The students delivered their essays during the oral competition, with the top four winners receiving the trips to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

West Central's delegates, their teachers and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 15 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives, and the Supreme Court. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 80-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 16. 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 or Baltimore Orioles 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 83 entries were received from five different schools.

Delegates get psyched for CYCLE!

Local students Lindsey Feldman of Crest Ridge High School, Rosa Ciocca of Chilhowee High School and Angela Brown, Elaine Shannon and Bailey Clutter, all of Odessa High School will attend the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in Jefferson City July 18-20.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top 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. Past speakers at CYCLE have included Darrell

Scott, whose daughter, Rachel, was killed in the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and Mike Schlappi, wheelchair basketball world champion and paralympic medalist whose message is "If you can't stand up -- stand out." Students will also have the opportunity to write and debate their own bills on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.



CYCLE WINNERS...Students representing West Central Electric at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in July are (l-r) Rosa Ciocca of Chilhowee High School, Lindsey Feldman of Crest Ridge High School and Elaine Shannon, Angela Brown and Bailey Clutter all of Odessa High School.

Kate Lee wins English Memorial Scholarship

From page 1

Being elected to this role means a lot because it means people believe in me enough to plan the biggest event of the year."

Lee also serves as Jackson County 4-H Youth Council secretary and vice president of her local 4-H club.

"Growing up in the 4-H program, I always admired the teenagers who took on a role at the county level. Now that I have had the honor of holding the secretary position, I completely understand the dedication to 4-H it takes," she said.

In school, Lee is involved in a variety of activities including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the OGHs homecoming committee and Panther Pak. She serves as secretary of National Honor Society and manager of the varsity girls' basketball team. Lee is also a middle school Science Olympiad coach and has completed the A+ Program.

She plans to attend college, most likely, she says, at Xavier University in Cincinnati, to study business.

The committee also chose to award three one-time \$500 scholarships to Cailey Dowell of Odessa High School, Casey Warren of Lafayette County C-I High School and Katie Turnbow of Warrensburg High School, as well as three one-time \$250 scholarships to Abbie Mahnken of Lafayette County C-I High School, Logan Shields of Odessa High School and Katie Silvers of Odessa High School.

Cailey Dowell

Dowell is the daughter of Randy Lane and Cinda Ann Dowell. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to study biological sciences with the goal of becoming a physician's assistant in pediatric oncology. She is a 10-year member of 40-ville 4-H Club.



Dowell

Casey Warren

Warren is the daughter of Lorna Warren and Kevin Warren. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to study health sciences. Warren, who plans to become a physical therapist, has been a member of Hazel Dell 4-H Club for 10 years.



Warren

Kathryn Turnbow

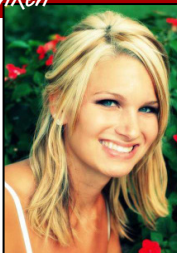
Turnbow is the daughter of Herbert and Deborah Turnbow. She plans to attend the University of Central Missouri to study speech communication and theater education. Turnbow is a seven-year member of Good Neighbors 4-H Club.



Turnbow

Abbie Mahnken

Mahnken is the daughter of David and Becky Mahnken. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to study radiologic sciences with an emphasis in radiography. Mahnken is a 10-year member of Hitt 4-H Club.



Mahnken

Logan Shields

Shields is the son of Mike and Mary Ann Shields. Shields, who plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to study computer science, has been a member of Mighty Mo 4-H Club for 13 years.



Shields

Kathryn Silvers

Silvers is the daughter of Charles and Nancy Silvers. She plans to attend Missouri Valley College as a biology major with an emphasis in pre-veterinarian. She is a 10-year member of the Mighty Mo 4-H Club.



Silvers

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship was made possible by former WCE board member John English and his wife, Kathryn, who created the trust to assist graduating 4-H members with their educational expenses.

2012 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2012 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on Thursday, May 10, 2012 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 3, 2012 in Warrensburg.

District I

Walter Hutcherson
39607 E. Fricke Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-625-3837

District II

Robert Sander
13642 Bonanza Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-7032

Dana Sander
32376 King Rd.
Alma, MO 64001
660-674-2654

Eric Johnson
14082 Highway U
Odessa, MO 64076
816-230-8074

Ellis Dieckhoff
20795 Jennings Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-7336

District III

Gary Bell
1048 NE 121 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-9285

Jerry Phoenix
707 NW 100th Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-656-9527

Sara Willard
491 NW 900 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7469

Norma Grainger
890 SW 151 Rd.
Chilhowee, MO 64733
660-747-9588

*Terms will expire for District II directors Clark Bredehoeft and Paul Nolte, and District III director Dale Jarman.

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) is the incumbent of or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 per annum is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of directors shall remove such director from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can save on energy costs. Check to make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and the outside wall fitting and is not kinked or clogged. Use a vacuum to remove lint inside the dryer for safety and efficiency.