



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

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ElectricNews

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

New substation takes shape

Sub will improve service reliability to areas north of Mayview

Work is nearing completion on the Tabo Substation, and expectations are to have it up and running by the end of the year, according to Engineering Manager Dan Disberger.

"This substation will serve members north of Mayview, and will improve outage times and reliability of service to those members," Disberger said.

The project is part of the cooperative's workplan recommended by its

consulting engineers, and will shorten the length of lines between members in those areas and the substation supplying their electricity.

As of late September, contractors for the cooperative were in the process of constructing the line to connect to the substation. The sub is located on Highway E between Mayview and Lexington.

(Right photo)
The structure of a substation takes shape in the north central part of the WCE system just outside of Mayview.

(Left photo)
Contractors work to wire the substation in the final phases before it comes online later this year.



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 nearly 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 for three days of leadership activities, cooperative education and hands-on government. Delegates secure a spot at this award-winning youth conference through their participation in the Rural

Santa Fe High School senior Courtney Bishop (third from left) participates in the CYCLE team relays.

Continued on page 3

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opportunity provider and employer.*

Board of Directors:

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Energy

In Today's Classroom...

Workshop provides educators with knowledge, materials to introduce topic of energy production

Peek into Cyndi Allen's middle school gifted classroom this year, and you might have a little trouble convincing yourself you are in a school filled with sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

That is because the topic of discussion will be the various types of energy sources, and students will be debating the feasibility of using that particular energy source to power Missouri.

Allen said the original idea for the project came out of a training seminar she attended last year on gifted education at Lindenwood University.

"There was a teacher there that had a lesson plan on energy sources, and I had asked for it," she said.

Allen studied the lesson plan, and, being familiar with West Central Electric, contacted the cooperative about bringing someone in to speak about the different types of energy sources.

"The students wanted to ask questions about the algae energy sources and alternatives to biomass energy sources, and things like that, and I knew it was going to be a very in-depth conversation -- especially dealing with gifted students, so that blossomed into having Joe Wilkinson from Associated Electric come in and talk to the students," she said.

It was at that point that Allen was approached about attending "Energy in Today's Classroom," a workshop developed jointly by the University of Missouri and Central Electric Power Cooperative, a generation cooperative that is part of the Associated Electric system. Through their attendance and participation, teachers can earn continuing education credits.

The workshop, which is designed to educate teachers about energy, energy production and incorporating renewable

energy production, was well-received by Allen, and started the wheels turning for a project through which her students could look into the issues and make their own decisions based on researching the facts from both sides of this hot topic.

"Each student will take an energy source, and they will have to debate it with another student," Allen said. "They will have to research their topic, look at the pros and cons of their energy source, the environmental impact and the economic impact, and decide whether or not the consumer could afford to use only their energy source as their sole power source."

Allen said their audience will be authentic -- made up of parents and other people from the community who will come in and evaluate the students based on what they see and hear during the debates.

Allen said her hope is that students will not only gain information on the different types of energy sources, but also information that could impact their futures. She said something hit her during the workshop when the group was touring the MU Power Plant.

"After the power plant tour and seeing the different types of people they need there, I thought this could be a good career path for some of them," she said. "I want the students to realize that sometimes when they are thinking about jobs, they may want a career as an engineer, for example, but they also need to think about where they are going to take that job. Sometimes, the best job might be in their own backyard."

"Whether it is engineering or computer programming, I would really and truly like to see some of these students looking at the cooperatives for possible



Warrensburg Middle School eighth-grader Tim Richner and Gifted Education teacher Cyndi Allen look over and discuss materials provided to the students by the Energy in Today's Classroom workshop attended by Allen this summer.

job avenues, because many of them are scientifically-minded or mathematically-inclined or computer technology-based. I really want them to see that something like this might be a potential job for them someday."

Allen said her overall impression of the Energy in Today's Classroom program was very positive, and she would encourage area educators who teach this type of curriculum to consider attending the workshop.

"Even if you have an economics unit, you could easily tie the economics portion into it because they have a section about calculating costs of running your appliances for the month. You can look at that from various types of energy sources such as coal, hydro, wind, etc. and create a cost analysis" she said. "There are many different ways you could use the materials whether you are in the sciences or economics or a gifted program like I am. It is a great program and definitely beneficial," she said.

The workshop not only consisted of giving teachers resources and information to use in the classroom, but also

providing a general working knowledge on a variety of topics under the umbrella of electrifying Missouri. Topics included the basics of energy production, the climate-change theory, and how cooperatives meet their members' demands for electricity. The idea is to help provide a more full picture of the reality of meeting the demand for electricity.

Participants attending the two-day workshop were sent home with a binder of the different presentations heard throughout the workshop, as well as a box of books, posters and materials with activities and experiments for the students to use.

"These students in particular are our future scientists, doctors, engineers and technicians, and any time you have the opportunity to give them something new to learn, I think that is a great option and an opportunity to open new doors for them," Allen said.

For more information on the Energy in Today's Classroom workshop, contact Steve Moore at 800-491-3803.

CYCLE challenges students to become greater leaders

From page 1

Electric Youth Tour 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.

“I want to thank West Central Electric for the amazing opportunity to attend the CYCLE conference,” said 2015 delegate Kimber LaGore, a senior at Santa Fe High School. “I had a blast, and met a lot of amazing people. The speakers were interesting and the activities with our groups were entertaining.”

While the conference is short, CYCLE is jam-packed with activity. One of the team-building exercises is the “Build a Cooperative” game, where students are divided into teams and given a box of supplies they can use to build a model of their own member-owned business. Other activities include 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. 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.

“I had a really great time, and I am so appreciative of the opportunity I was given,” delegate Courtney Bishop said. “One of my favorite presentations was Rachel’s Challenge. It was truly inspiring and almost brought me to tears.

“I hope West Central Electric continues to do this for many years to come,” Bishop said.

For more information about the 2015 Youth Tour contest or CYCLE, contact Heather Hoflander at 800-491-3803 or heather@wcecoop.com.



Santa Fe High School students (l-r) Courtney Bishop, Mackenzie Phillips and Kimber LaGore visit the Missouri State Capitol Building during the 2015 Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience this summer.

Proper HVAC sizing... When the ‘rule of thumb’ doesn’t work

When it comes to your home’s HVAC system, are you suffering from the Goldilocks Syndrome? Perhaps your system is too big or too small – or maybe it’s just right. The Department of Energy study shows that most HVAC systems don’t run as efficiently as they could because they are not installed correctly or they are the wrong size. This translates to not having the comfort level you are seeking and over-paying on your utility bills – all the more reason to determine the right size system for your home. According to Terry Townsend, president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), “oversizing is common in commercial as well as residential applications because contractors use the rule-of-thumb sizing – a load calculation based on square footage.” Unfortunately, this type of simple calculation is outdated, which could cost you money.

Is your unit too big?

Why is an oversized system problematic for the average homeowner? Heating and cooling account for more than half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home. So, if your HVAC unit is too big, it means that it may be “short cycling,” or constantly turning off and on. When the unit runs in short bursts, it will not run long enough to eliminate all of the humidity in your home. If you are in a warmer climate and rely on the air conditioning mode, it could mean a

short-cycling system leaves more moisture in the air, making your home feel sticky and warm; this can also lead to growth of mold and mildew. Heating and cooling in short bursts results in uneven temperatures and hot or cold spots in your home. Lastly, the unit’s parts wear down prematurely.

Or is it too small?

On the other hand, if your HVAC equipment is too small, you have a different problem – the unit is constantly running in order to try to keep up with demand. This also means that your space is never heated or cooled adequately, and you have unnecessarily high energy bills.

To size right, choose the right energy professional. Shop the various contractors in your area and ask questions about proper sizing.

Make sure to get West Central Electric’s current rebate program requirements on our website at www.westcentralelectric.coop before shopping. Let your contractor know you will be applying for the rebate and take him a copy of the rebate form to ensure the equipment you purchase will qualify. Contact us at 800-491-3803 with any questions.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Missouri One Call provides you an essential service

Do you want to stay safe? Avoid expensive damages? If so, it is essential to use the Missouri One Call System to notify the utilities of your work before every type of digging project: landscaping your yard, installing a culvert, building a fence or even something as simple as installing a mailbox.

Notifying Missouri One Call before beginning any type of excavation will allow the utilities to mark their underground facilities, permitting the excavation to safely proceed. Damaging an underground line can result in injuries, expensive repair costs, legal fees and outages.

Nationwide, an underground utility line is damaged by digging once every three minutes, and one out of every three facilities are damaged as a result of not notifying the One Call center to have the facilities marked prior to digging. Using the Missouri One Call System is free, and you can process your request 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It only takes a few minutes to complete the process of notifying the utilities of your intent to dig. The utilities are then allowed three working days to respond and mark their facilities.

Notifying the utilities is easy. Here’s how the Missouri One Call System works:

1. Three working days before you begin your work, call 1-800-DIG-RITE or 811 or go online to www.mo1call.com to place your locate request.
2. Our operators will map the dig site from excavator information and notify the utilities that have facilities in the area.
3. The utilities will respond by mark-



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

ing their facilities or notifying you that they have no facilities at the dig site.

4. The utilities will mark the facilities that they own, usually up to the meter.

5. Once all the utilities have responded, work can then safely proceed, avoiding damages. 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

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held August 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Densil Allen, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and Administrative Assistant Kim Lewis.

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 July 23, 2015, were approved.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR JULY

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

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following July 2015 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; the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report and the Safety Report, which included no lost time accidents during the month.

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 VOTING REPRESENTATIVE AND BOARD MEMBER

Bredehoeft was appointed as AMEC Board member and the cooperative's voting representative for the AMEC Annual Meeting, and Gray was appointed alternate.

COMMITTEE REVIEW

The board discussed committees for the coming year, and appointed members to the Scholarship, Wage & Salary, Bylaws, Strategic Plan and Building committees.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

The board reviewed results from the annual meeting member survey, and decided to share a brief summary with members in the upcoming newsletter. The 2016 annual meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 5, 2016.

AMEC REPORT

Gray and Bredehoeft reported their attendance and shared highlights including department, financial and staff reports.

N.W. REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported their attendance at the N/W. meeting and shared highlights including department updates, construction, financials and outage information.

REVIEW INDEPENDENT AUDITOR PROPOSALS

Gray presented the requests for proposals from three independent auditing firms. After discussion, the proposal from Dreyer & Kelso was accepted.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Allen, Streit and Ahmann reported on the progress of the Building Committee. Gray reported that he had contacted Cooperative Building Solutions for a preliminary meeting which was scheduled for Sept. 16. The member survey was tabled until the September meeting.

MANAGERS REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report which included a meeting with the IBEW Union Representative, a Missouri Chamber membership request and personnel matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

CALLS FOR TRIENNIAL MEMBER SURVEY SLATED TO BEGIN SOON

Over the next few months, West Central Electric will be sponsoring a telephone survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. This survey will ask several questions about your energy usage and your satisfaction with the cooperative. It should take approximately 13 minutes to answer all questions. The call center conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf of the cooperative. They will be conducting calls Monday-Friday from 5 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 5pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

As the temperature goes down, outages and blinks caused by animals will increase

The air is calm and crisp and the day is clear, when suddenly your power goes off. You wonder what could have caused such a thing. There's not a cloud in the sky.

The bad news is, there doesn't have to be a cloud in the sky or a storm in the air to cause a power outage. Although a number of outages may be caused by high winds blowing tree limbs onto lines, the culprit in the fall of the year is likely to be of the furry or feathery variety.

"When the air begins to turn cold, a lot of times we see an increase in the amount of outages on our system that we can attribute to animals," Line Superintendent Randy Burkeybile said.

The number of outages attributed to animals can increase in the fall when squirrels begin preparing for winter. Squirrels and other animals climb on equipment, such as transformers and fuses, and the equipment shuts down in order to protect the rest of the system.

"The reason these instances sometimes tend to increase in the fall is because the transformers put off heat," Burkeybile said. "Squirrels, raccoons and other animals will climb onto the transformers for warmth, and they get into places they shouldn't be. Before you know it, there is a power outage."

Animals on the transformers can also cause the monotonous "blinks" that keep the lights off only long enough to force you to have to set every digital clock in the house.

"Even a wasp in the wrong place at the wrong time can blink an entire line," Burkeybile said.

Your cooperative is doing what it can to reduce outages attributed to animals by installing insulated "bird wire" and wildlife protection devices to prevent animals and birds from making contact with electrical equipment. These devices are not only meant to protect the electrical system, but also the birds and animals.

"Wildlife protection devices are a plastic insulating cap that goes over the exposed electrical components on transformers and breakers," Burkeybile said. "We have installed the same insulated wire and wildlife protection devices where we can in our substations."

Your cooperative is working hard to reduce the number of outages experienced by our members. **When calling in an electrical outage, please be sure to have your map number available. It can be found under the "service information" section located in the center of your billing statement.** Outages may be reported at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or on our website at www.westcentralelectric.coop.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • July 2015

	This month	YTD 2015	YTD 2014
Revenue	2,259,197	15,377,017	15,961,716
Power Bill Expense	1,455,503	9,646,745	9,465,078
Operation & Maint. Expense	218,280	1,799,483	1,438,953
Depreciation Expense	160,762	1,108,957	1,063,101
Interest Expense	50,897	609,103	787,218
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	1,885,442	13,164,288	12,754,350
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	173,375	505,385	1,350,418
Other Margins	5,607	102,408	82,221
TOTAL MARGINS	178,982	607,793	1,432,639

**WCE offices will be closed
Wednesday,
Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and
Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 26-27 for the
Thanksgiving holiday.**