

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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District Offices

Garden City
2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-0261

Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-4223

Harper
302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090

Leoti
N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632

Scott City—Main
101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885

Syracuse
206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
620-384-5171

Tribune
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879
620-376-4231

In Case of an Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
1-800-ON AGAIN.

FROM THE MANAGER

Do It Yourself Electrical Safety

Many homeowners try to tackle do-it-yourself electrical projects now more than ever before. In some cases, homeowners choose not to pay for the services of a licensed electrician.

However, most of us don't have the training or experience needed to safely perform electrical work, which increases the risk of injury and electrocution and potentially introduces new dangers. Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care—cutting corners can be a costly mistake.

For example, electrical outlets cause nearly 4,000 injuries every year. And each year, more than 19,700 people are hurt by ceiling fans that are improperly mounted or incorrectly sized. The Electrical Safety Foundation International strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform electrical work in your home.

If you decide to do it yourself, consider the following important safety tips:

- ▶ Make an effort to learn about

“Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care—cutting corners can be a costly mistake.”



Bruce Mueller

your home electrical system so that you can safely navigate and maintain it.

- ▶ Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level. Knowing when to call a professional may help prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.
- ▶ Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- ▶ Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- ▶ Test the wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off.
- ▶ Never touch plumbing or gas pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.

For more tips on treating electricity with care in the home and workplace, visit www.esfi.org and click on the “Home Safety” tab.

Until next time, take care.

Wheatland Employee Promotions



Marcus Goebel



Chris Shurle



Brandon Ritchie



Justin Skelton

Wheatland offers congratulations to the employees who earned promotion in July. **MARCUS GOEBEL, BRANDON RITCHIE** and **CHRIS SHURLE** were promoted to Journeyman Lineman, while **JUSTIN SKELTON** advanced to third-year Lineman Apprentice.

Our linemen work in all kinds of weather, hot or cold, dry or wet, even during storms, to ensure our members have the most reliable electric service possible. They have to pass classes in electrical power, safety (for themselves and others), security, and many other topics. They drive big trucks, input data, operate heavy equipment, and still have time to take part in community events.

Wheatland congratulates our linemen on their well-deserved promotions.

Wheatland Hosts “Touch a Truck” Demo



Wheatland lineman Trent Suchy (standing on the truck) gave a demonstration on the co-op’s bucket truck at the Great Bend Public Library’s “Touch a Truck” event.

Wheatland Electric employees recently had the opportunity to participate in the “Touch a Truck” children’s event hosted by the Great Bend Public Library.

The event featured a number of “work trucks” provided by local businesses for children to learn how they worked.

Wheatland lineman **TRENT SUCHY** demonstrated how to operate the co-op’s digger truck for the children in attendance.

The children were amazed at the controls for the truck, which looked a lot like a video game to them. After the demonstration, the children were allowed to climb up on the truck and take a look around for themselves.



Suchy assists a young boy in climbing.

The brave ones even ventured up into the operator’s seat, with the help of Suchy, for a bird’s-eye view of the truck’s controls.



Suchy shows a child the view from the operator’s seat on the digger truck.

Help Your Children Stay Healthy All Year

Back-to-school preparation means more than just toting a list of classroom items to the store or buying a new pair of jeans and some sneakers. Consider these issues before the first bell sounds.

You are what you eat

Packing lunch ensures that you control what fuels your child's body. The National Institutes of Health recommends making lunch a family activity—kids usually want to eat what they've helped prepare.

Let your child choose from a variety of easy-to-pack snacks, like cheese sticks, whole fruits and crackers. If your morning is rushed, try packing lunch in the evening before bedtime.

Sometimes packing isn't always practical and school-provided lunches become necessary. In January 2012, the federal government upped standards for school meals—the first revision in 15 years—that will make them healthier. Among the requirements are an offering of fruits and veggies every day, along with more whole-grain foods, and reducing the amount saturated fat, trans fats and sodium in the foods.

All the preparation in the world, though, won't help if your child gets to school and swaps his or her carrot sticks for someone else's pudding cup.

Like most habits, healthy eating begins at home. If good food choices are all a child has grown up with, he or she will be more likely to continue making good choices at school and beyond.

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Schools are breeding grounds for illness, thanks to myriad shared surfaces and hygiene habits that are still a work in progress. Hand washing remains the first line of defense in preventing the sniffles.

Warm running water and soap are



Thorough hand washing can keep your child safe from illness this school year. Scrubbing the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails, and washing for at least 20 seconds.

the preferred tools to clean hands. In a pinch, alcohol-based hand sanitizers work, too (unless hands are grubby—then soap is the only way to go), according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Teach your child good hand washing techniques, which include scrubbing the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails, and washing for at least 20 seconds. Sing 'Happy Birthday' twice to time yourself.

Hand washing is necessary around mealtimes (both for eating and preparing food) and after using the bathroom, touching animals, or handling trash.

Also, instill in your child the necessity of using a tissue when sneezing or coughing (or an elbow or shirt sleeve if tissues aren't handy), and washing hands after.

Staying safe

Before the start of each school year, have a chat with your kids about safety—from walking or driving to school to how to handle a bully. Encourage them to take safety drills seriously.

Urge them to memorize evacuation routes and lockdown procedures, and obey teachers when these plans are enacted.

For more resources on school safety, visit www.cdc.gov/Features/safeschools.

Payment Options

Wheatland Electric Offers Members Several Ways to Pay

The following are the authorized bill payment options available to Wheatland Electric members. Payments by cash, credit card (for residential members only), money order, personal check, certified check or bank draft will be accepted. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged for every credit card transaction. All payments must be in a Wheatland Electric office before 5 p.m. on the Delinquent After Date printed on your billing to avoid late payment penalties.

Drop box: Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order, in the payment drop box at any of the locations listed below or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th in Scott City.

In person: Pay your bill at any of our offices in:

- ▶ Caldwell—City Offices, 14 W. Central
- ▶ Crystal's DVDs—111 W. Spring St, Suite B
(Open Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Fri. from 3-9 p.m., Sat. from 2-9 p.m.)
- ▶ Deerfield—City Hall, 622 Main Street
- ▶ Garden City—2005 W. Fulton
- ▶ Great Bend—2300 Broadway
- ▶ Harper—302 W. 6th Street
- ▶ Leoti—N. Highway 25
- ▶ Scott City—101 Main
- ▶ Syracuse—206 ½ Main
- ▶ Tribune—310 Broadway

Mail: Enclose your bill payment stub along with a check or money order and mail in the envelope provided with your bill. Please allow three to five days for delivery.

Online: Visit www.weci.net and click on Online Bill Pay. Sign up for service and enter an e-mail address for receipts. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file for your electric or internet account.

Phone: Call any Wheatland office to pay by phone.

All other payment options are considered "unauthorized pay agents." Unauthorized pay agents have no contractual requirement with Wheatland Electric to operate under rules approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Wheatland Electric provides no assurance as to the timeliness or accuracy of payments made via unauthorized agents.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

A Magic Energy Moment BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“It was at that moment that I realized that the closing of each bloom was energy in action thanks to Mother Nature.”

My wife and I recently purchased some large Desert Rose plants to place on our west-facing front porch. This porch gets extremely hot during summer afternoons, so these beautiful plants should enjoy their new environment. Our porch doesn't look like the plant's native environments of tropical Africa or Arabia. But the direct sunlight, its reflective surface temperatures and Arkansas' humidity produce the heat, light and moisture conducive for these hardy hot-weather plants.

Each morning when we retrieve the newspaper, we notice there are no blooms or color on our new plants, but when we head outside in the afternoon, we are greeted with dozens of beautiful blooms, provided the sun is shining. We enjoy sitting in on that porch during the evenings. With coffee in hand, we enjoy watching the sunset upon our neighborhood.

One evening as we were sitting there, I saw a movement out of the corner of my eye. I looked to the left and saw nothing, except one of the Desert Rose plants. A minute later, I saw movement out of the corner of my eye again. This time I just continued to stare at that plant. I saw one of the blooms shake like it had a chill. There was no breeze, so I thought that an insect or one of our cute little lizards was on the plant stem causing the movement. Then I saw another bloom shake, and then another, and then another. The movement continued for several minutes until all of the blooms were closed. As the sun dropped below the horizon, it seemed as though every bloom had a device that retracted the petals. It was at that moment that I realized that the closing of each bloom was energy in action thanks to Mother Nature.

It really was a magic moment for me because I started thinking of the ways that

nature relates to the same energy efficiency measures and messages that we have shared for years.

One of my seminar focal points is “all energy comes from the sun.” Thus, a perfect example is the Desert Rose bloom. It remains wide-open to collect as much solar energy and carbon dioxide as possible for survival. The energy collected is essential and must not be wasted. So, the bloom closes at sunset and forms a thermal envelope. Sound familiar?

We've been teaching about thermal envelopes for years—that is the kind used for your house. Simply stated, if your house has minimal air infiltration and is properly insulated, you have a good thermal envelope.

Furthermore, when the energy you purchase is utilized efficiently, the by-products are a comfortable home, manageable utility bills and conservation of resources.

Another example is a robin's nest on top of my porch column. Being an architect, I enjoy a good construction project. I watched the bird build the nest using mud and straw. The nest is practically airtight, except at the top. Then, Mother robin places her feather-insulated body over the top of the nest, keeping the eggs or hatchlings dry and at the desired temperature. This example of nature and nests is a perfect segue.

Now is a great time for humans to inspect their nest. Does your nest need more attic insulation to improve the comfort within? If you are not sure give me a call at my office at 501-653-7931. Until next month, I hope that you will have your magic moments, too.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.