

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Beyond the Flip of a Switch



Bruce Mueller

With the mere flip of a switch, electricity illuminates our lives. But have you ever thought about where your power comes from? Most of us don't give it a second thought until our service is interrupted and we're left in the dark—even if only for a short amount of time. In today's world, electricity is a necessity, and this necessity travels a great distance to reach you—our members.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., provides electricity to approximately 36,000 meters in our service territory, and it takes a network of dedicated folks to do so. Wheatland builds and maintains overhead and underground electrical lines and manages the equipment needed to provide you with safe, reliable power, but did you know that we don't actually generate the power

that is supplied to your home? That's where our local generation and transmission cooperative (G&T) comes in.

After the power is generated from power plants and sent over Sunflower and Mid-Kansas's high-voltage transmission lines, it then makes its way to Wheatland substations, where the voltage is reduced and the electricity is transmitted over our distribution lines on its journey to your home. After the power voltage is reduced one more time by Wheatland at a nearby pole top or underground transformer it is ready to be delivered to your home safely.

As you can see, there's a little more to obtaining electricity than just flipping a switch, but we've got you covered. Wheatland Electric Cooperative has provided our members with safe, reliable and competitively priced power since 1948, and that continues to be our number one goal today.

Until next time, take care.

SmartHub Software Offers Benefits to Members

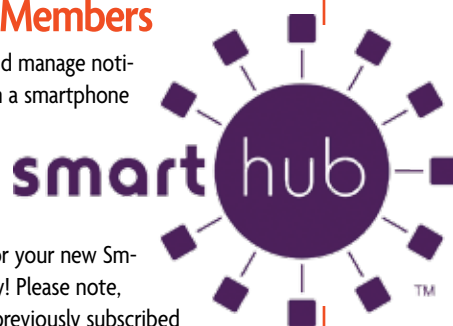
Wheatland Electric has recently switched billing software vendors. Along with many enhancements to internal systems and processes, the new software features a number of exciting new features and benefits for our members.

One of the most exciting new features is a service called SmartHub. SmartHub takes the place of our old online bill pay site. Members who sign up for a new SmartHub account can view and pay their bills online,

view usage history and manage notifications. There's even a smartphone app available!

Go to www.weci.net and click on the Online Bill

Pay icon to sign up for your new SmartHub account today! Please note, members who were previously subscribed to the old e-bill site will need to re-register for a new SmartHub account.



Kansas Youth Tour Students V

I can't imagine a better investment than in these young people, the future leaders of Kansas and our country.

SHAWN POWELSON,
2014 CHAPERONE

Teaching 35 high school students about electric cooperatives, as well as helping to develop their leadership skills, was an important objective of the 54th annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 12-19.

BAILEY HARRIS, daughter of Tim and Shelley Harris of Tribune, was selected to represent Wheatland Electric on the trip.

The trip, sponsored by Kansas' electric cooperatives, began in Topeka with several guest speakers at the kick-off banquet. KEC's Bruce Graham led the event and introduced Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback, who attended youth tour in 1978; Steven Johnson, Kansas House of Representatives District 108, who attended in 1983; Kyle Hoffman, Kansas House of Representatives District 116, who attended in 1989; and Travis Couture-Lovelady, Kansas House of Representatives District 110, who attended in 2000.

Before leaving Kansas, the students visited Kaw Valley where they learned how electric cooperatives work and rode in a bucket truck. They also toured the Kansas State Capitol.

Once in Washington, D.C., the group visited with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, and Congressman Tim Huelskamp, allowing the students to learn about the nation's government



Bailey Harris poses in front of our nation's capitol.

and talk with their elected officials. For many students, meeting their representatives was inspiring and motivated them to set leadership goals.

"When Senator Pat Roberts talked about tomorrow's leaders, it hit me that we are those leaders, and I want to strive to fulfill one of

The 2014 delegation included 35 Kansas students and four students from Hawaii.



Visit Legislators on Capitol Hill

“The Silent Drill Team really inspired me. Their discipline and precision makes me want to strive to be the best.”

BAILEY HARRIS, 2014 WHEATLAND DELEGATE

those leadership roles,” said Antony Furse, a youth delegate sponsored by Lyon-Coffey.

Despite flight delays and cancellations upon departure, the youth were still able to tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several memorials, along with seeing the Broadway musical Disney’s *The Lion King* at the Kennedy Center. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of NRECA coordinating the Youth Tour trip.

This year’s trip was chaperoned by Wheatland’s Shawn Powelson and his wife, Lisa. “KEC promotes this trip as the trip of a lifetime, and that certainly

isn’t an exaggeration by any means,” Powelson said. “Despite a challenging start to the trip, the overall experience is one I will not soon forget. Kansas and its electric co-ops were represented well. I can’t imagine a better investment than in these young people, the future leaders of Kansas and our country.”

“Everything in Washington, D.C., is inspiring. It fills your chest with pride,” said Jacob Rose, a youth delegate sponsored by DS&O. “It makes you want to do better as a person so someone else can be moved by your work.” Rose was selected by his peers to be the 2014 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA’s 2015 annual meeting in Orlando.

Bailey Harris Experiences the Trip of a Lifetime



Bailey Harris stands in front of the White House during Youth Tour.

On March 25, 2014, I received the call informing me that I had just been given the opportunity to represent Wheatland Electric on the 54th Annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Then, nearly three months later on June 12, 2014, I finally left home and got to begin the journey, completely unknowing that it would become one of the best experiences of my life thus far!

Before heading to D.C., we stopped at Kaw Valley Electric where we were educated on our own cooperatives. Being able to see, first-hand, what some of the linemen do every day really gave me a new respect for all of the workers at my co-op.

Later on in D.C., we were able to visit numerous memorials and museums on guided tours. One of the highlights of my trip was seeing the Marine Corps Band and Silent Drill Team at the Iwo Jima memorial. Visiting Iwo Jima memorial was already remarkable, but the true discipline and precision of the Marine Corps is really admirable and incredible to see. I definitely recommend it.

Another highlight was visiting with our State Senators and Congressmen. I learned a lot from our conversations with them and I really enjoyed getting to ask questions and speak with them, on such a personal level.

Overall, not only did I get the chance to make some incredible relationships with other kids like me, but I also got to experience my nation’s capitol like I had never thought possible before. I never would have dreamed of an opportunity like this and I really cannot express how beyond grateful I am. I feel so incredibly blessed! Thank you so much Wheatland Electric and all of its members!



The Lincoln Memorial was just one of many stops for Bailey Harris (left) and the other delegates on Youth Tour.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Take a Ride on the Touchstone Energy Balloon

When organizers of the Showdown on the Plains Air show and BBQ Festival in Scott City began planning the first event back in 2010, and no one could have imagined where they would be today.

New to this year's event will be an appearance by Touchstone Energy's Hot Air Balloon Team sponsored by Wheatland Electric. Wheatland members, as well as all of those in attendance, will have the opportunity to take a free tethered hot air balloon ride as a part of the day's festivities.

John Petrehn of Leawood is slated to be the pilot for the balloon's Showdown appearance. John is a two-time winner of the World Hot Air Balloon Championships and has flown hot air balloons all over the world!

What started as a small-town barbecue competition and respectable air show has morphed into a regional event that draws spectators in the thousands to take in high-flying aerobatics and world-class barbecue. This year's air show will feature a performance by the legendary P-51 Mustang Gunfighter, a vintage World War II era fighter plane.

Also included in this year's show will be thrilling formation aerobatics by Team Vortex and a jet powered dragster.

In addition to the air show and balloon, those in attendance will be able to take in a whole host of other activities including vintage airplane rides, helicopter rides, bounce houses, delicious barbecue, and a lot more.

Wheatland is excited to bring the Touchstone balloon to our members at this year's Showdown and proud to be a sponsor of this great family-friendly event.



Showdown attendees will have the opportunity to take a free tethered hot air balloon ride as a part of the day's festivities.

Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

Save Energy, Save Money



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For

example, you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form visit www.weci.net and click on the "Energy Education" tab and then on "Rebates." You can also contact any local office.

Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

*Add \$30 for each 1/2 ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)

Plug-in to Savings!