

Rural Power

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Western linemen risk their lives in an effort to save driver

On July 11, 2013, at 2:30 a.m. Kelly Owens, Western Cooperative Electric's foreman, and Nate Budig, journeyman, left their WaKeeney warehouse to check on an electrical outage in Gove County.

As they were driving on I-70, they came upon a one-vehicle accident. The rollover vehicle was not only in the lane of traffic but was partially on fire with the driver unconscious and seat belt engaged.

Time was of the essence, and emergency personnel had not yet arrived on the scene. Owens and Budig took action and removed the driver from the vehicle moments before the vehicle was totally engulfed in flames.

While sadly the driver did not survive, these

linemen never hesitated for a chance to save a life. When both linemen were asked about why they had placed themselves in danger with the vehicle partially on fire, their reply was "Why would you not make an attempt?"

"We are extremely proud of these linemen, not only for their quick response to this accident but for placing themselves in harm's way each and every day to keep the lights on for the rest of us," said Darrin Lynch, Western's General Manager.

Lynch continued, "Our linemen represent what Western, and rural electric cooperatives, are all about—doing what needs to be done. Western's safety training is ongoing and our linemen continue to meet challenges without hesitation."

Victory's Janson retires, board names Laws as Chief Executive Officer

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., board of trustees is pleased to announce the selection of Shane Laws as the new CEO, effective Oct. 1.

Laws has 17 years of electric cooperative experience. He most recently served as director of retail programs with CoServ Electric in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area.

"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and honored to be a member of the Victory Electric family," Laws said. "I am looking forward to becoming a part of the community."

Laws' previous experience includes multiple roles in marketing and communications, energy management, engineering, cost-of-service studies and rates.

He holds an undergraduate degree in business administration from The University of Texas-Arlington, and a master of business degree from Texas Woman's University. He has also completed the NRECA Management Internship Program.

"We welcome Shane's experience and leadership to the cooperative," said Kenny Wehkamp, president of Victory Electric's board of trustees. "We believe he will be a great asset to the cooperative and will fit into the community and culture at Victory Electric well."



Shane Laws

Laws enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. He and his wife, Ali, have been married for 12 years and have a son, Shalor, 11.

Laws replaces retiring manager Terry Janson, a 42-year employee of Victory Electric. Janson started in 1971 as a Purchasing Agent and worked his way up in the company to his current position as CEO in 2000.

The board and employees held a retirement party for Janson on Aug. 27.

Janson stated, "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the growth and success of our small electric cooperative."

He continued, "It is because of the support of the community and Victory's dedicated and committed employees continue to show the willingness to go the extra mile to ensure our success. I have no doubt I am leaving Victory in capable hands."



Terry Janson and his family were honored at a retirement party held at Victory on Aug. 27.



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USDA seeks applications for grants to create jobs, economic opportunity in rural areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture seeks applications for grants that will be awarded to organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development.

USDA is making \$5.6 million available through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), a program that serves as a catalyst for economic growth in rural areas.

Application deadline is Nov. 12. RCDI applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303, SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040. For more information, call the USDA Rural Development State Office at (785) 271-2730.

USDA – 8/15/13

Mid-Kansas Electric Company receives siting approval for Elm Creek-to-Summit transmission line

Mid-Kansas Electric Company, along with ITC Great Plains, LLC, received siting approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission for their portion of the Elm Creek-to-Summit high-voltage electric transmission line project in north central Kansas.

The 60-mile, 345-kilovolt transmission line will connect the ITC Great Plains Elm Creek Substation, approximately four miles northwest of Aurora, to Westar Energy's Summit Substation, located five miles northeast of Assaria. ITC Great Plains and Mid-Kansas will construct, co-own and operate the northern half of the line in Cloud and Ottawa counties. Westar Energy will build, own and operate the southern half of the line. The project also will involve upgrades at both substations.

MKEC – 8/27/13

SEPTEMBER

- 10 **KEC Legislative Committee Meeting**, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Marriott Courtyard, 3020 Riffel Drive, Salina
- 10 **KEC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting**, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Marriott Courtyard, 3020 Riffel Drive, Salina
- 10-12 **KEC Hotline School – Pratt Community College/Vo-Tech**, Pratt
- 13 **Kansas REC Manager's Fall Meeting**, Country Inn & Suites, 1805 North 110th Street, Kansas City, KS
- 17-19 **KEC Hotline School – Manhattan Vo-Tech**, Manhattan
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Tri-County Annual Meeting**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m., Texas County Activity Center, 5th & Sunset, Guymon, OK
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 26-27 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita

OCTOBER

- 2 **KEC Committee Meetings**, Marriott Hotel, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita
 - 9:30 a.m., Apparatus Testing Committee Meeting
 - 1:30 p.m., LCS&C Committee Meeting
 - 3:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
 - 4:00 p.m., Legislative Committee Meeting
- 3 **7 a.m.**, KEC Executive Committee Meeting, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 3 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, 8:30 a.m.
- 9-11 **KMSDA Fall Meeting**, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan
- 16-17 **NRECA Region 7-9 Meeting**, Portland, Oregon
- 14-18 **KEC Supervisory Fast Track**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 21 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting – meeting at 10 a.m.**, FHSU Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays
- 23-24 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

KEC to offer NRECA Supervisory courses in Topeka

KEC is offering the NRECA Supervisory Training courses on Oct. 14-18 at KEC's headquarters in Topeka.

This program delivers instruction on core competencies required of supervisors in the areas of leadership, communication, and basic administrative skills. NRECA developed the curriculum based on a set of supervisory competencies identified by new cooperative supervisors, experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

This "fast track" offers all nine interactive, co-op specific half-day courses in one week. Participants can register for some or all of the modules they need to fulfill their Supervisory Training certificate.

Bryan Singletary, NRECA, will facilitate these courses.

Member registration is \$250 per module or \$2,000 per attendee for all nine modules. Registration includes materials and lunch (no lunch will be provided on Friday). Registration deadline is Oct. 4

Make room reservations by calling

Club House Inn & Suites at (785) 273-8888 for a KEC Corporate Rate of \$76, Comfort Suites at (785) 246-6777 for a KEC Corporate Rate of \$89, or Holiday Inn Express at (785) 228-9500 for a KEC Corporate Rate of \$84. All three hotels offer a complimentary hot breakfast that is included in the rate. Make your room reservations early as the hotels fill up quickly.

The training will begin at 8:30 a.m. each morning. Sessions will end by 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs, and by 11:30 a.m. on Friday. The topics to be addressed include: Getting Started as a Supervisor, Personal Time Management, A Supervisor's Role in Managing Change, Maximizing Effectiveness Through Communication, Resolving Conflict Through Negotiation, Motivating Employees, The Supervisor and Human Resources, Tools for Effective Performance Management, and Occupational Health and Safety for Supervisors.

If you have any questions, please contact Shana Read, 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org.

Ark Valley's Holmberg named Assistant Manager

Jackie Holmberg has been named Assistant Manager at Ark Valley Electric Cooperative.

In this capacity, Holmberg will help to oversee 2,100 miles of high line serving 5,000 members in the nine counties served by Ark Valley.

Holmberg holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Kansas State University and has been the financial controller for Ark Valley for the past 17 years. She had prior experience at the First United National Bank in Great Bend.

During her time at Ark Valley, Holmberg has managed the financial side of multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant rebuilds, the latest of which totaled over \$44 million.

She has also played a vital role in accruing substantial savings for the cooperative through appropriately-timed refinancing of loans and utilizing prepayment discounts for co-op expenses. Her diligence and eye for detail will save Ark Valley approximately \$1.15 million over the next several years.

"Holmberg is a strong asset for the future of the co-op and a diligent protector of the members' interests," said Bob Hall, Ark Valley's General Manager.



Jackie Holmberg

Co-op employee groups plan fall meetings

KMSDA Meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association 2013 Fall Meeting will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan.

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, KEC's Carrie Kimberlin will facilitate a pre-conference workshop on sharpening design skills as she shares what she learned at Adobe's PhotoShop World.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, the meeting will begin with Greg Hill who will show how to connect with members using video and smart phone apps. This training will be followed by a lighting and surge suppression presentation. Also on the agenda is a renewable energy session and a program update by Touchstone Energy's Laura Cook.

A roundtable discussion and a short business meeting will conclude the meeting on Friday, Oct. 11.

If you have any questions, or would like to attend the meeting, please call Abby McGreevy, Sunflower, at (785) 623-6605.

Accountant's Club Meeting

The 74th Kansas REC Accountant's Club Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 23-25 at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview in Wichita.

The annual golf outing will be Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the MacDonald Golf Course in Wichita. A mixer will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the hotel.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Thursday night's entertainment will be at the Mosley Street Melodrama where members will enjoy dinner and a show. Cost for the dinner and show is \$28 per person. All reservations for the dinner and show must be paid no later than Oct. 17.

The meeting will reconvene on Friday, Oct. 25th at 8:30 a.m. and will end by noon.

If you have any questions, or would like to attend the Accountant's Club Meeting, please call Penny Gilmore, Heartland, at (620) 724-5549.

Co-ops golf, raise funds in KCRE tournament

32 teams took to the course and raised approximately \$5,500 during the 17th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament. The event was held August 23 at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The KCRE golf tournament raises an amount of money approximately equal to 300 memberships and provides KCRE necessary funds to support candidates who support electric cooperative issues.

A total of 126 golfers participated in the tournament. Flight winners included the teams from Brown-Atchison, Caney Valley, Nemaha-Marshall, Prairie Land, Rolling Hills and Victory. The winning team was from Nemaha-Marshall and included Kathy and Dan O'Brien, Justin Burdick and Drew Olberding.



Thanks to the 17th annual KCRE golf tournament planners (from left): Ken Maginley, Bluestem; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; Kirk Thompson, CMS; Bob Reece, Flint Hills, and Roger Davis, CMS.

"It's important to participate and support our PAC," Kathy O'Brien stated. "The tournament is great for camaraderie and is a great way to get people who don't normally play golf to participate."

She credits her team's win with their motto: "See it, roll it, hole it!"

Kathy O'Brien also won the early bird drawing. In addition, 28 drawings and hole prizes were awarded following the tournament. Special thanks to the 32 sponsors who supported this event.

The 18th Annual KCRE Golf Open is scheduled for August 22, 2014.

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Bruce Tomlinson

Bruce Tomlinson, husband of CMS board member Linda Tomlinson, died on Aug. 19. Funeral Services were held on Aug. 24 at the St. John Lutheran Church in Meade.

Memorials may be sent to the Minneola District Hospital or St. John Lutheran Church in care of the Fidler-Orme-Bachman Mortuary, 212 S. Fowler, Meade, KS 67864.

Rolling Hills' Jeardoe helps win "pitch" for Kansas

Melvin Jeardoe, Rolling Hills Electric's Line Superintendent in Belleville, recently helped the Kansas Horseshoe Pitchers Association win the bid to host the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships.

The tourney will be held in Topeka July 13-25, 2015, and could attract up to 2,000 participants.

Jeardoe, regional director of the state association, said delegates from the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association chose Topeka over Charleston, WV, and Wichita Falls, TX. Topeka edged Charleston for the 2015 bid by one vote.

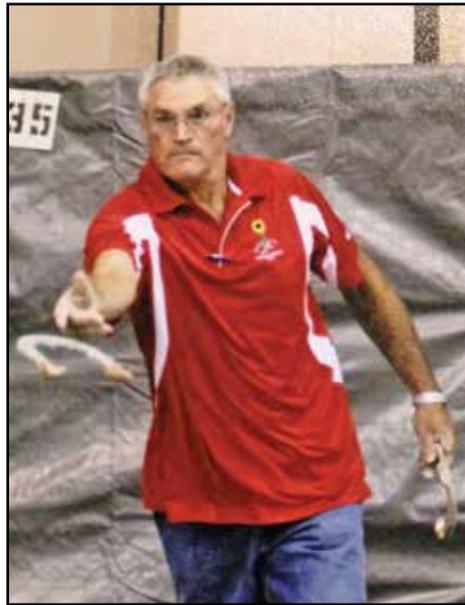
This championship will be the first time the national tourney has come to Kansas since the inaugural event was held in Bronson, KS, in 1910.

"We bid in 2007 and that's the year we missed by five votes," said Jeardoe. "We looked at it again over the last couple of years and we decided to go for 2015."

Competitors come from across the United States and Canada, as well as

several other countries.

The event will include 50-75 indoor courts set up at the Kansas Expocentre and 18 practice pits in Gage Park.



Melvin Jeardoe, Rolling Hills' Belleville Line Superintendent, pitches horse shoes at the 2014 competition in Utah.

Electric co-ops sponsor ElectroRally event

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Midwest Energy, and Western Cooperative Electric are co-sponsoring the 16th annual High Plains Electrally on Sept. 26 at the West Frontier Park in Hays.

Fort Hays State University Dept. of Technology Studies in cooperation with North Central Kansas Technical College is hosting this Electrathon America sanctioned event. High School teams throughout the state will compete for the checkered flag.

"The course proves to be a challenge to all drivers with curves and hills, within a scenic and exciting course" said Joe Chretien, FHSU Tech Professor.

Kansas students design, build and race electric vehicles. The competition is based on time and distance, and the race is won by the team that completes the most laps in one hour. For more information, visit www.kansaelectrally.org.



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