

Rural Power

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Dave Childers selected as new Sedgwick County manager

Dave Childers, currently the controller at New-Mac REC in Neosho, MO, was recently selected to be the next general manager of Sedgwick County. Childers will start his new position on March 5.

Childers has 20 years of experience working in the electric utility industry. He has served as plant accountant for Central Rural Electric Cooperative (CREC) in Stillwater, OK, before coming to New-Mac in Nov. 1995. As controller, he has been responsible for budget and financial statement preparation and analysis, cash management, FEMA claim oversight and filing and supervising an accounting staff.

Before starting at CREC, Childers worked as a Federal auditor, controller of a corporate baking company, manager of an employee leasing company and an audit and payroll specialist in a CPA firm.

Childers has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Business Administration and Computer Science from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK, where he was



Dave Childers

honored as "The Outstanding Business Student" his last semester. Childers has also successfully passed all the parts of the Uniform CPA exam.

Childers and his wife, Debbie, have three boys, Carson, a junior in high school; Mason, a sixth grader; and Bryson, a kindergarten. The Childers family is also very active in their church. Childers served as a Deacon for 13 years, 10 of those as secretary. He has also served as a member and as chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and on

various search committees. Debbie plays piano, sings, and has served on committees for music, the kitchen and a worship leader search.

Both Childers and his wife have taught youth and adult classes. Debbie has worked as a school secretary and is currently the secretary of the local Baptist Association.

Childers loves to hunt and fish and watch and play sports.

Childers will take the place of Al Henning who has managed Sedgwick County since 1985. Henning retired on February 15.

Alfa co-hosts energy efficiency event with a \$10,000 grand prize

Because of a recent sweepstakes, Alfa members are a little more energy efficient, and two in particular are \$10,000 richer. This was done through a contest promoted by the Oklahoma cooperatives, called the Climate Connection Sweepstakes.

ClimateMaster, a producer of geothermal heat pump systems, sponsored the contest. Any Oklahoma Touchstone Energy Cooperative member in good standing who performed a home energy audit could enter. No purchase was necessary. Alfa and its subsidiary, AEC Ser-

VICES (which performs heating and cooling installations), assisted with the contest. AEC Services has had a strong relationship with Climate Master as it has been a dealer for the company for the past 12 years.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Alfa's G&T; and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Oklahoma also worked with ClimateMaster to help promote and conduct the event.

There were more than 400 entries in the sweepstakes, but the winners were Alfa members Wayne and Virginia Prewett of Cherokee.

The couple's \$10,000 prize was presented at a celebration on Feb. 22.

The Prewetts weren't the only ones to benefit from the contest, however.

"Any energy efficiency program benefits our members. It shaves our demand that we put on Western Farmers' system," said Terry Ryel, Alfa's director of marketing.

Plans are already in the works for a contest next year geared toward young people. Students will be asked to create a video on the benefits of ground source energy.



A Touchstone Energy Company

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inbrief

Kansas utilities sign long-term co-development agreement for transmission projects in Kansas

ITC Great Plains LLC, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC have expanded their partnership agreement for the development of transmission projects in Kansas. Under the latest agreement, Sunflower and MKEC granted ITC Great Plains the exclusive option to build transmission projects that Sunflower and Mid-Kansas elect not to construct. The initial term of the agreement is 10 years with ongoing renewal provisions.

ITC – 2/23/12

World's largest all-electric eBus and eTaxi fleets expanding in Shenzhen

Shenzhen City, China, will add 1,500 pure electric K9 buses and e6 taxis to its public transportation fleet, already the largest zero-emissions fleet in service world-wide. Shenzhen Development and Reform Commission cited rising oil prices and growing environmental pressures as key reasons to transform the public transportation system.

BYD AUTO – 2/27/12

Co-ops encouraged to partner with Operation Gratitude

Operation Gratitude assembles and distributes care packages to U.S. Service Members deployed overseas as well as the wounded recuperating back home. Operation Gratitude encourages donations of co-op-branded items for care packages or make monetary donations to help pay for the \$15 shipping fee for each package to be sent overseas. Their goal is to donate 1,000 care packages. The deadline for donations is May 15. Learn more at www.operationgratitude.com.

KS CO-OP COUNCIL – 2/17/12

co-opcalendar

MARCH

- 5-7 **NRECA Annual Meeting**, San Diego, CA.
- 13-14 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Courtyard, Salina.
- 14 **KEPCo Executive Committee Meeting**, noon, Coyote Canyon, Salina.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 6 **Nemaha-Marshall**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 1 p.m., American Legion, 207 5th Street, Axtell.
- 12 **Bluestem**, meeting at 7:30 p.m., Wamego Middle School, 1701 Kaw Valley Rd., Wamego.
- 15 **Butler**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Circle High School, 905 Main Street, Towanda.
- 17 **Pioneer**, health fair at 7 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 1 p.m., Civic Center, 1000 W. Patterson Avenue, Ulysses.
- 24 **Sumner-Cowley**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 1 p.m., High School, East U.S. Highway 160, Wellington.
- 27 **Heartland**, meeting at 7 p.m., Ft. Scott Community College, Ellis Family Fine Arts Center, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott.
- 27 **Prairie Land**, lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters, 14935 U.S. Hwy 36, Norton.
- 27 **Ninnescah**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 117 West Third, Pratt.
- 29 **Radiant**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, 9346 Jewell Rd, Fredonia.
- 29 **Doniphan**, dinner at 6:30 p.m. meeting at 7:30 p.m., Doniphan West Middle School, Highway 20 East, Denton.
- 30 **Alfalfa**, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School Gym, 412 E. 5th, Cherokee, Oklahoma.

APRIL

- 2 **Lyon-Coffey**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Emporia Civic Auditorium, 111 E 6th St., Emporia.
- 3 **Ark Valley**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., State Fair Grounds, Sunflower North Building, 2100 N. Main, Hutchinson.
- 3 **DS&O**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., Salina Bicentennial Center, Salina.
- 4 **Kaw Valley**, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., co-op headquarters, 1100 SW Auburn Road, Topeka.
- 10 **Victory**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Civic Center, 2110 First Avenue, Dodge City.
- 10 **Sedgwick County**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Ballroom, 11120 West Kellogg, Wichita.
- 12 **CMS**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., South Central Middle School, 310 S Jefferson, Protection.
- 19 **Twin Valley**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School Cafeteria, 601 S. High School, Altamont.
- 20 **Rolling Hills**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. NCK Technical School Gym, 3033 U.S. Highway 24, Beloit.
- 24 **LJEC**, meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth School Auditorium, 217 Summit Street, McLouth.
- 25 **Wheatland**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 12:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 723 Main St., Great Bend.

MAY

- 1 **Caney Valley**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Cedar Vale School Gym, 500 Dora, Cedar Vale.
- 9 **Western**, lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m., co-op headquarters, 635 S. 13th Street, WaKeeney.
- 17 **KAMO**, meeting at 6:30 p.m., Renaissance Hotel, 6808 S 107th East Ave., Tulsa, OK.
- 18 **Sunflower**, meeting at 8:30 a.m., location TBD.

JULY

- 10 **Lane-Scott**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.

SEPTEMBER

- TBD **Tri-County**, location TBD.

NOVEMBER

- 14 **KEPCo**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting following dinner, Courtyard by Marriott, 310 Hammons Dr., Junction City.
- 19 **Midwest Energy**, meeting at 1:30 p.m., Fort Hays State University, Robins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays.

Ark Valley linemen applauded for “uncommon valor”

Not all good deeds go unnoticed. Just ask Bob Hall, Ark Valley’s general manager.

Earlier this month, Hall received a letter from co-op members John and Deb Theis. The couple wanted to express their gratitude for ‘the valiant efforts’ of Ark Valley linemen Kelly Soper and Jim Sherry.

On Feb. 10, Soper and Sherry were de-energizing a house so firefighters could extinguish a blaze. They noticed another fire not too far from there, and went to investigate.

The linemen found the flames in the Theis’ backyard, heading toward their home. They used three fire extinguishers from their bucket trucks to hold back the flames and their shovels to cover embers near the home, preventing the fire from reaching the house. Firefighters also arrived and were able to put out the rest of the fire, leaving only minor damage to the Theis’ property.

The Theis family was appreciative

for the work the linemen did to save their home. In addition to sending the letter, they personally thanked each lineman and gave them gift cards.

“Linemen face many hazards each day during their normal duties, yet your crew showed uncommon valor by risking their own safety to contain a dangerous wild-fire. We do not have words to express how grateful we are to them and the fire department for saving our home,” the couple wrote.

Hall said the impromptu fire fighting is just one of many examples of linemen going beyond their usual job duties to come to the aid of community members. Whether it’s by putting out



Ark Valley linemen Jim Sherry (left) and Kelly Soper were quick to act to save a member’s home from an approaching fire last month.

flames or assisting those in a car stalled on the side of the road, the linemen often lend a helping hand.

“This sort of thing is something that the linemen do every day. But, it’s not every day we get a letter thanking them,” Hall said.

The cooperative does, however, often receive thank-you cards or notes on bill stubs. Hall keeps them all.

Electric cooperatives sponsor metering school

Both Pioneer and Wheatland helped to sponsor the 38th annual Underground Overhead Metering School in Garden City February 7-9.

More than 300 students from Kansas and surrounding states attended this annual event.

There were 23 classes held on topics including safe work practices, new technology and transformer and meter installations. Many vendors displayed their products and services.

Other sponsors included KEC and the City of Garden City. Wheatland and City of Garden City started the school in 1974.



KEC’s Larry Detwiler leads a class at the UOM school in Garden City.

Flint Hills

Flint Hills held its 74th annual meeting on February 21 at Centre High School near Lost Springs. In attendance were 147 registered members and their families. More than 300 meals were served.

Guest speakers included Steve Parr, KEPCo, and the youth tour winners who attended camp, Carrie Carlson and James Mulderring.

Flint Hills also had their Meter Data Management system on display. Members can now go online to monitor their hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly energy use.

Re-elected to the board were Dale Andres and Gary Burton. Newly elected to the board was Terry Olsen who replaces Graeme Glaser.

Brown-Atchison

Brown-Atchison held its 74th annual meeting on February 23 at the cooperative’s headquarters in Horton. In attendance were more than 100 registered members and their families who were served a meal.

annual meetings

Kevin Gigstad, board president, thanked Rod Gerdes for his years of service and mentioned that Rod will retire at the end of March after serving as general manager for 18 years.

Re-elected to the board were Joe Taliaferro, David Hinton, and Daryl Sales.

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insympathy

Harlan R. Phillips

Harlan R. Phillips, father of LJEC board member Ralph Phillips, passed away on February 4.

The funeral was held February 8 at the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Denison, KS.

Memorials may be sent to the church, in care of Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

KEC promotes co-op careers at Washburn University

On Feb. 15, KEC employees attended a career fair at Washburn University. At the fair, they spoke with dozens of interested students about a potential summer communications internship at the office, as well as other job opportunities that cooperatives offer.

The event gave Washburn students an opportunity to network and learn about potential job and internship opportunities. Underclassmen and students who had yet to declare a major could explore the different career paths available to them in areas of study in which they might be interested.

"It was a great educational opportunity for students. Even if their skill set wasn't what we were looking for with our internship, it is still a great opportunity to educate students about cooperative careers," said Becky Haddican, KEC communications intern.



Becky Haddican, KEC intern, talks with other college students about cooperative careers at the Washburn University Career Fair.

Lane-Scott's junior board visits Fort Dodge Station

Lane-Scott's junior board, along with Lane-Scott employees Bob Venters and Dow Morris, toured the Fort Dodge Station in Dodge City.

Fort Dodge Station is a 145-MW gas-fired power plant owned by Sunflower. The tour was conducted by plant manager Ed Eversole.

The Board members learned about the processes of purifying the water, turning it to steam in the boiler and how the steam is used to turn the turbine and produce electricity.



The Junior Board of Trustees tours Fort Dodge Station. From left: Ed Eversole, plant manager; Mathew McMillan; Austin Vieux; Chad Myers; Mariah York; Leslie Speer; Dow Morris and Darrick York.

jobmarket

Nebraska G&T seeks assistant general manager

Nebraska Electric G&T Cooperative, Inc. ("NEG&T") seeks an individual to replace its retiring Assistant General Manager.

NEG&T's, located in Columbus, NE, core business is contracting for the wholesale power supply and delivery requirements of its 22 members. NEG&T operates with a staff of up to six. The member systems distribute electricity to about 150,000 consumers.

Candidate should understand various planning, construction, operation, maintenance, and cost components

of the electric transmission and generation system in Nebraska and the Southwest Power Pool to help members with their power supply needs and costs, as well as have an understanding of public power statutes. Candidate will have a Bachelor's Degree in business, engineering, marketing, technical, or a related field and two years of experience.

Email a cover letter, resume, recent salary history, along with six business and three personal references by March 31 to Langley & Associates Executive Search at cmlangley@earthlink.net.

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