

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
Delivering Energy for Life

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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

Scott City—Main

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

Great Bend

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

Syracuse

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

Harper

906 Central
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090

Tribune

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

Leoti

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

FROM THE MANAGER

Board Will Meet to Discuss Two Rate Changes



Bruce Mueller

As I discussed in last month's article, the Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., Board of Trustees is considering two changes to its rates. The

Board will discuss and vote on these changes at its September 2016 meeting. Neither of the changes will affect existing members unless they choose to participate. One is an optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider where qualifying members who receive electricity and are billed under the General Service tariff may receive reductions in their monthly billing. The other is the Grid Access Charge, which will affect new distributed generation members.

Optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider:

When Wheatland Electric Cooperative implemented its rate increase for the entire membership in April 2016, we announced plans for a new optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider for members on the General Service tariff who have extremely high energy usage. Members in this particular sub-set of the General Service tariff received a somewhat higher percent-

age increase under the new rates as compared to the average rate increase.

The Wheatland Board will discuss and vote on a new Optional High Load Factor Rider for members who receive electricity and are billed under the General Service tariff. The rider will provide a monthly billing credit for members with high load factors. This rider will only be applicable to Wheatland's standard General Service tariff, and not to its General Service Time of Use or Large General Service tariffs, or any other tariff.

The rider is beneficial to both members who receive electricity and are billed under the General Service tariff and potentially to Wheatland members as a whole. The individual member can see a reduction in monthly billing, but only if they maintain a high load factor.

Wheatland's other members benefit as well because high load factors generally result in a lower average cost of power, which flows through to all Wheatland members through a lower monthly Energy Cost Adjustment.

No member will pay more under the rider than under the General Service tariff, and each member may decide for him or herself if he or she wishes to participate. Wheatland may temporarily see a small reduction in margins but does not anticipate this

Continued on page 16-F ▶

Wheatland Sponsors Youth

Each year, Wheatland sponsors three area students on trips of a lifetime. This year, winners were **BRE AKIU**, Conway Springs; **ERIN HALL**, Norwich; and **MARCOS MARTINEZ**, Great Bend. Winners were selected by Wheatland Electric through an application and interview process based on academic achievements positive attitude and involvement within their community.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Hall and Martinez were selected by Wheatland Electric to attend the 56th Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 9-16. They joined more than 1,700 other high school students nationwide to visit with their state's senators and members of Congress, tour historic monuments and memorials.

This year's delegation of 36 Kansas youth and four Hawaii youth began their trip with a banquet in Topeka featuring youth tour alumni Mike O'Neal, Former Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives; Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback; Rep. Steven Johnson; and Rep. Kyle Hoffman; and a night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. Before flying to Washington, D.C., on Friday, the delegation had breakfast at Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative where linemen presented an electrical safety demonstration and gave bucket truck rides.

While in Washington, D.C., the students met with Congressman Tim Huelskamp and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They also visited with Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran after their tour of Capitol Hill.

"Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities," Moran said. "Recognizing that youth are

the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

This trip opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles, while building lifelong friendships.

"Lunch at Ben's Chilli Bowl was my favorite memory. The food and the conversations with my new friends on this trip was an amazing experience," Hall said. "The real prize, however, was hearing the stories of Ben's experiences during the 60s. This family-owned restaurant survived through many years of depression throughout the Civil Rights Movement and the staff shared first-hand stories with us."

"I was inspired by the World War II veteran, Frank Matthews, who told of his experi-



Above: Erin Hall takes a selfie with Screech, the Washington National's mascot.

Below: Marcos Martinez makes a rubbing of a name at the Vietnam Wall.

Far right: The Youth Tour delegates pose in front of the National Archives.



h Tour & Leadership Camp

ences in the Marines and at Iwo Jima.” Martinez said. “Realizing the sacrifices people made for our country encourages me to want to do more.”

The delegates also toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, attended a professional baseball game at the Nationals Park, and had a laugh at the production of *Shear Madness* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought together students from 43 states.

A surprise turn of events also occurred on this year’s trip. Delegates had the opportunity to see the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet while visiting the Capitol, watch from a distance as presidential candidate Donald Trump boarded his plane at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and witnessed a vote in the Senate Gallery with several well-known senators who have also been a part of the current presidential campaign.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Akiu was selected to attend the 40th annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) in Steamboat Springs, Colo. From July 16-22, Akiu joined approximately 100 youth from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma for the week-long camp that combines education about the cooperative business model with traditional camp pastimes.

At CYLC, the campers participated in daily membership meetings where they established committees and elected a general manager and board of directors. Campers also had time to enjoy area activities including visits to Fish Creek Falls and Steamboat Springs, river rafting and participating in camp activities such as volleyball, swimming and a talent show.

The youth learned about the workings of electric cooperatives through a variety of activities: Yampa Valley Electric’s linemen led a high voltage safety demonstration, campers competed

Wheatland Electric is proud to be a participating sponsor of our local youth on these trips to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills. BRUCE MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER



Above: Students from four states participate in CYLC.

Center: Campers don hard hats to tour the Craig Power Plant.

Below: Bre Akiu represented Wheatland at camp.



in building a model transmission line out of craft supplies, and they toured the Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant.

“I found the Craig Power Plant tour very interesting,” Akiu said. “I will always remember my small group. We all really got along great and worked together to get the most out of our camp experience.”

Overall, the campers said they left CYLC with a new sense of leadership and a basic understanding of how their local electric cooperatives operate and how they contribute to the betterment of the communities they serve.

Wheatland Electric sponsors two delegates for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and one camper for the CYLC each year as part of our strong commitment to the community and our mission to inspire future generations to become leaders. Applicants must be high school juniors whose parents or guardians are Wheatland members. Applications are due Feb. 1. For more information, school counselors can contact Shawn Powelson, manager of member services and corporate communications, at 620-872-5885.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Amanda Martinez

Payroll Specialist

1 1/2 years in Scott City



Amanda Martinez

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I have a husband of 15 years, Jamie; a step-son, Brevan, who is 17; a 14-year-old daughter, Gabby; a 8-year-old daughter, Kenzi; Jax, a shorky; and a teacup poodle, Harley Winston.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Scott City

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

If I had any spare time, I would craft, sew, quilt and work in my yard.

WHAT SPORT TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Whatever sport and team my daughter is playing for. I also like Broncos football, K-State football, WSU basketball and NASCAR. And, I try to support my Bronbuster children in all their activities.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

We took the girls to San Antonio a few summers ago, and then we traveled to Corpus Christi.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?

A Few Good Men—you can't beat Tom Cruise in a uniform and good courtroom drama.

WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

(This is hard. I'm not really a quiet person, so most people already know a lot about me.) In college, I decided I wasn't ready to settle into the career life, so went to Washington D.C. to be a nanny for the director of the FBI, then Louis Freeh, among other high profile D.C. professionals. I then earned my paralegal certification and came back to Kansas where I was a police officer for 15 years. I still get to play cop part-time at the Garden City Community College.

Brownback Visits Water Technology Farm

Governor Brownback recently visited Western Kansas as part of a field day showcasing the first water technology farm. More than 200 attendees gathered at T&O Farms, LLC to observe technologies the farm has implemented that focus on irrigating effectively in an attempt to help conserve the aquifer. In addition, attendees heard from a number of other agriculture and water experts on the subjects of water conservation and crop production as a part of the field day.

The water technology farm concept was developed as a part of Gov. Brownback's call to address the state's water supply issues in 2013.

In conjunction with the governor's visit to the area, Wheatland hosted a meeting with Governor Brownback and his staff to continue the water conservation discussion. Also in attendance were two tenants currently farming Wheatland-owned land. The governor and his staff facili-



Governor Sam Brownback addresses attendees at the water technology farm field day.

tated a conversation that focused on exploring technologies and developing conservation plans and farming practices that will help extend and preserve the Ogallala aquifer.

Save Using Your Co-op Connections Card

The popular **D'MARIO'S PIZZA** located in Harper might be under new ownership, but they are still offering the original menu items in addition to several new items.

Stop in and enjoy the ever popular deluxe or cheeseburger pizza or try some of the new items including chicken pizza with white sauce, fettuccine alfredo, grilled chicken salads, chicken wings and gluten free pizza. Use your Co-op Connections Card and receive a large pizza for medium charge.

Coleman and Cassie Teel along with Coleman's mother, Kenna Teel, have been the new owners of D'Mario's Pizza since December 2015. The restaurant has been in operation since 1994; Coleman worked at D'Mario's in high school. D'Mario's

is undergoing a complete remodel, new booths, tables and chairs are all that remain to be completed.



Visit D'Mario's on Facebook for daily specials. <https://www.facebook.com/DmariosPizzeria/>. D'Mario's Pizza—

New owners, same great food!

Use your Connections Card at these other local businesses for more great savings. For a complete list of deals, visit <http://www.connections.coop/weci>.

- ▶ **YOURS TRULY**, Great Bend
- ▶ **THE TAYLOR HOUSE**, Scott City
- ▶ **BECKER TIRE**, Great Bend

Still need a Connections Card? Contact your local office for more information on how to start saving now with the Co-op Connections Card!



Returns!

Help Wheatland Electric Cram the Van this Fall!

And we're off! September is here and it's officially time to Cram the Van! The big red van will make its first stop in Leoti on Sept. 13 on the Wichita County Courthouse lawn. We'll be serving hamburgers and hot dogs hot off the grill, in exchange for your donation to the local food bank. You'll also have a chance to enter to win a free night stay at the Hotel at Waterwalk in Wichita. Thanks to our generous friends at the Waterwalk, we'll once again be offering a number of free night stays and weekend packages at select events this year. Listen and watch for local ads identifying registration locations throughout this year's drive.

You don't have to wait for the big red van to show up in your town to make a donation. In addition to the 11 events we'll be conducting across our service territory, we'll also have donation bins located at every Wheatland Electric office, Hired Man Grocery and Grill in Conway Springs, Caldwell



Cram the Van has collected more than 7.5 tons of food over the last two years. We are excited to Cram the Van again this year!

City Hall and Wheatland Broadband. Drop your donations off during business hours. At the end of October, we deliver the donations to the local food bank in the community in which they were donated. Thanks to you, we've collected more than 7.5 tons of food over the last two years. Will you help us get to 10 tons? We know you will, so thanks in advance for helping us Cram the Van!



Wheatland Employees and Trustees help serve hamburgers and hotdogs at the Cram the Van Halloween Finale.

Cram the Van at a Community Near You

- ▶ **SEPT 13** - Wichita County Courthouse Lawn, Leoti
- ▶ **SEPT 15** - Clarion Inn Z98 Women's Fair, Garden City
- ▶ **SEPT 20** - Heartland Foods, Scott City
- ▶ **SEPT 28** - Wheatland Electric, Syracuse Office
- ▶ **SEPT 30** - Gooch's Foods, Tribune
- ▶ **OCT 11** - Ron's Market, Holcomb
- ▶ **OCT 7** - Caldwell Bluejays Football Game, Caldwell
- ▶ **OCT 15** - Harper Fall Fest/Bullseye BBQ, Harper
- ▶ **OCT 21** - Cardinal Challenge/Hired Man Grocery, Conway Springs
- ▶ **OCT 28** - Great Bend Panthers Football Game, Great Bend
- ▶ **OCT 29** - Fall Finale, Wheatland Broadband, Scott City

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff Rosalva Godinez

Accounting Specialist
4 months at Garden City



Rosalva Godinez

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My husband is Richard Ortiz. He works at Berry Tractor. I have two kids: my daughter

Tiana is 12, and my son Thiago is 4. We have one pet, Cain—a spoiled Rotty.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Garden City

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I really enjoy cooking—getting the chance to try out a new recipe is great!

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

In 2009, I traveled to San Diego. It was my first time to see the ocean.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would have that mean look my mom gave us growing up. We knew she meant business! I try my best to practice “the look” in the mirror.

WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

That I can be an oddball!

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My husband. He reminds me to be a better person every day.

Board Will Meet to Discuss Two Rate Changes *Continued from page 16-A* ▶

amount to cause cost shifting among rate classes or failure to meet its financial goals and objectives.

Grid Access Charge

The Grid Access Charge will add a monthly charge to allow Wheatland to recover from distributed generation members the cost of providing them electric service each month. All existing net metering and renewable members will be grandfathered under their existing tariffs.

Currently, Wheatland recovers a portion of its fixed costs for providing service (tree trimming, line maintenance, meter costs, debt payments, etc.) from the monthly service availability charge. But, when members move to a net metering rate, that cost recovery is reduced, because the member averts kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption. Wheatland firmly supports providing each net metering member with a benefit related to reduced power costs that are based on reductions in Wheatland's cost of power. However, Wheatland's fixed

costs of providing service unrelated to generation or power must be shared by all members equally.

Since all current members will continue to be billed under their existing tariff, this proposed change will have no effect on Wheatland's revenue.

C.H. Guernsey, our rate consultant, has assisted Wheatland with both new rate changes.

The Wheatland Board of Trustees and management are sensitive to and recognize that any change to rates is very important to the members. By now, you should have received a notification in the mail about a meeting in which the Board of Trustees will be discussing and voting on these rate proposals. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 9 a.m. at the following location: Wheatland Broadband office (Bryan Conference Center), 416 S Main, Scott City, KS 67871. The portion of the meeting where rates are discussed is open to all members who wish to attend.

Until next time, take care.

Notice of Meeting of Board of Trustees to Discuss Rate Changes

Wheatland Electric's Board of Trustees will hold a meeting in which a new Optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider and the adoption of a Grid Access Charge will be discussed and voted on at the September board meeting.

The Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 9 a.m. at the following location: Wheatland Broadband office (Bryan Conference Center), 416 S Main,

Notice of Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 9 a.m.
Wheatland Broadband office
(Bryan Conference Center),
416 S Main, Scott City, KS 67871

Scott City, KS 67871.

The rate proposal section of this meeting is open to all members of Wheatland Electric.

Offices to Close for Labor Day on Sept. 5

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.

Local Fairs Bring Members and Communities Together

Summer means fair season in Kansas. From arts and crafts to animals and carnival rides—there is usually something for everyone. These fairs, which occur throughout Wheatland Electric's service territory, provide plenty of opportunities for Wheatland employees to volunteer.

Fair week in Scott County has several events that keep Wheatland employees busy. From Beefiesta—a free barbecue dinner held during the fair—to the Beef Tasting Booths, where local businesses compete to win the People's Choice Award for best beef recipe—there are a lot of opportunities to get involved.

Wichita and Greeley counties are unique in that the Fair Associations own their own carnival rides. Residents, including a number of Wheatland employees, volunteer their time to be “carnies”—running rides and games and selling tickets. They also help assemble the rides and tear them down after the fair is over. Leoti's fair, in particular, is a big draw



The Gator is a popular ride for the younger kids at the Leoti Fair.

in the area because of the rock bottom ticket prices—it is only 25 cents a ride!

In Harper, Wheatland linemen recently lent a helping hand by hanging a Harper County Fair banner over the road reminding residents of the fair dates for their community.

From driving bucket trucks in fair parades to sponsoring rodeos, demo derbies and community dinners and everything in between, Wheatland and its employees are proud to support and be a part of the communities we serve.



Left: A Wheatland Linetruck makes its way down the Scott City Parade route. Right: Volunteers prepare the samples for the Beef Tasting Booths in Scott City's Patton Park.

Switch to paperless billing and feel good about **SAVING GREEN**

Wheatland now offers paperless billing. Sign up by Oct. 31 to receive a \$5 bill credit.*

How to Sign Up

- ▶ If you do not currently have an online SmartHub account, complete the required information at www.wheatland.smarthub.coop.
- ▶ Once you've signed up, log into SmartHub, click on “My Profile” on top menu, then choose “Update My Printed Bill Settings.”
- ▶ Click on “Turn off Printed Bills,” and choose “Yes” to confirm.



Besides saving trees, you'll also get \$5 from us!

**\$5 bill credit will be issued to the member's primary account. Maximum of one \$5 bill credit per member of record. Bill credit will be applied to your December bill.*

A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON



Amy Jones
Administrative Assistant
10 years in Scott City

Once I convinced Amy to let me shadow her for the day (albeit reluctantly), I knew we'd be in for an action-packed day. We office in the same building, so I get to see Amy in action on a regular basis. And let me tell you, it is action.

I didn't have to wait long for the action to start. I'd no sooner sat down with Amy and started to ask her a few basic questions about her work at Wheatland when we were interrupted by a phone call. With any given call, Amy could be scheduling a new installation, coordinating with the field personnel, answering a billing question, communicating with another Wheatland office and everything in between.

Fairly regularly, I will approach Amy's desk with a question and begin the conversation only to realize that she's on the phone. A slight motion toward the headset and a courteous smile lets me know I'll have to wait my turn.

As Amy was on the phone, the tower crew walked up to her desk. To help them avoid the hand motion and smile, I volunteered, "She's on the phone." They relayed to me their request for her to order something or another for them and they were on their way.

As she hung up the phone, we discussed the current project she was working on. She had been coordinating a billing change between our customer information software vendor, the billing department and her boss. All the while she simultaneously answered an email, verified the information on a ticket, checked a spreadsheet,

baked some cookies and planned a wedding. Ok, so I exaggerated a little, but you get the point!

Her world is in constant motion, best described as organized chaos in my opinion. My head was spinning after an hour and I got the impression she was just getting warmed up as she smiled at me, motioned toward her cup and explained "Need more coffee".

As we continued our discussion, Amy told me that everything that happens at the Broadband office happens in the form of a ticket. Whether it's a new installation, a service call, tower work, technical support or anything else that happens, it happens with a ticket. And every single ticket that gets created makes its way back to Amy for final review and input. That, in and of itself would be a full-time job for most people. But that's only one part of her job. Amy's other official responsibilities include, broadband billing, taking customer support calls, scheduling new installations, taking and processing payments, ordering all of the office supplies AND other. Before my department expanded, I used to be guilty of asking her to help me with lots of projects that could be classified as "other." Sorry, Amy...I had no idea!

I asked Amy what she enjoyed most about her job. "5 o'clock," she quipped. "That's when the phone stops ringing and I can really get some work done." That pretty much sums up Amy, usually one of the first to arrive and last to leave, dedicated to the job. Thanks for sharing your day with me Amy and thanks for all your hard work. I don't know how you do it!

SHAWN POWELSON, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications