



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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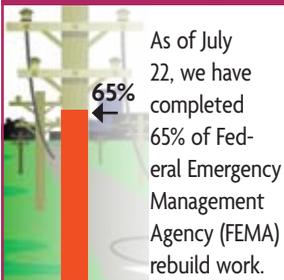
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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
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FEMA Rebuild Update



FROM THE MANAGER

Power Supply Update

As I write this month's column, we are experiencing the fourteenth day of triple digit temperatures that started back on June 30. This record setting heat wave will certainly result in some very high electric bills for July. If this weather pattern doesn't change before the end of July, Twin Valley will set a new record for energy (kWh) sales.

In the June newsletter, I pointed out that increased usage also results in increased power costs and gave you some ideas as to how you can help control those costs by limiting your use of electricity during our peak demand periods of 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

We are posting "peak alert" days on our website and sending out "peak alert" notices to those of you who have provided us with your e-mail addresses and phone numbers for that purpose.

In addition to the extreme heat, there have been some other considerations that are putting increased upward pressure on our power costs.

The cost of gasoline and diesel fuel continues to approach \$4 per gallon and crude oil costs keep moving up. The Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant in Burlington was shut down in April for a refueling

outage. The outage was scheduled to last 49 days, but due to some maintenance issues lasted 98 days. The nuclear plant is one of our most favorable sources of power, and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our wholesale power supplier, had to purchase more expensive replacement power during the outage.

Our other most favorable resource, hydropower, had been very limited by the extended drought in much of the area to our south.

And now, in what has been one of the most ironic twists to our power supply, hydropower is still limited even as Missouri and Arkansas are flooding. Water is being held back because of the Mississippi River flooding, which limits the low-cost hydropower.

The flooding has also caused our latan 2 coal-fired plant to limit generation because the rail lines are under water and they can't get coal delivered to the plant.

All of these considerations are placing increased pressures on the cost of your electric power. We are very conscious of these rising costs and are doing whatever we can to keep our costs in check.



Ron Holsteen

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or cell phone number to receive e-mail or text. Join us on Facebook for updates from Twin Valley.

To join us on Facebook, simply search for Twin Valley Electric Cooperative and click on the "like" button. You can also visit our website at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Once we receive your cell phone number, we will add you to our alert list. Alerts will be issued only on those days where we predict our loads will set a new billing level. All applicable text messaging rates will apply.

Sign Up Today to Receive E-mail & Text Alerts!

Complete and return this form to Twin Valley Electric, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

Name

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I hereby grant permission for Twin Valley Electric Cooperative to send me alerts via e-mail and text. The information will not be used for any other purpose. I acknowledge that any applicable text message rates will apply and will not be reimbursed by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.

Signature

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Rising Temperatures Create Challenges

100-plus degree days, humidity that makes you feel like you are melting, dust in the air from lack of rain, crops wilted and frail, and the farmers cussing the dry ground while

sipping coffee in the local convenience store...just another typical summer day in South Texas. But wait, I made the move over a year ago and now I'm seeing this type of summer here in Southeast Kansas. It's nice to be reminded of home, but a card from Mom would be a lot more welcome than the heat we are seeing now.

In a normal year, Southeast Kansas would experience roughly 10 days of 100-plus degree temperatures, but this year is definitely above the norm. Temperatures between 100 and 107 degrees have been reported for multiple days. This is another type of strain that your cooperative's electric system has to endure to keep your lights, and more importantly, your air conditioner, running.

As the temperature increases, load factors on the system begin to climb as well. With air conditioners running more to keep your home comfortable, the system sees very little relief especially in the peak times we experience when our hard working members get home from work and prepare meals for the family.

We have already witnessed peak numbers that are not seen generally until August, and then only once or twice when they do appear, and these numbers are continuing to rise.

Your cooperative's construction and maintenance equipment is dealing with the heat, as well. In other parts of the country, cooperatives make modifications to their equipment to allow for the heat. All of Twin Val-

Handling 7,620 volts takes special cover up equipment that is extremely hot and uncomfortable, but our linemen handle the duty when called upon.



William Worthy

ley Electric's equipment works off of hydraulic pumps that are powered by power take-off (PTO) pumps. These pumps are powered by the vehicles engines that run constantly through the day. The constant idling, coupled with the heat, can give us problems.

With all the advances in vehicle protection that are installed at the factory, sometimes it plays heck with us trying to get our jobs completed. Most of the time, the warning lights have a legitimate reason for getting our attention, but sometimes, well, they can make for a long day. Twin Valley Electric lineman take pride in our equipment and all warning lights are investigated and checked by our equipment maintenance team.

As far as our lineman dealing with the heat, we take pride in our safety record and want to make sure all of our linemen go home to their families at the end of the day. Handling 7,620 volts takes special cover up equipment that is extremely hot and uncomfortable, but our linemen handle the duty when called upon. Providing them with adequate hydration and electrolyte replenishing fluids is a responsibility that Twin Valley takes very seriously. We do ask our linemen to take breaks from the heat as frequently as needed or whenever possible to keep themselves in good shape to perform the job duties asked of them.

As always, I welcome your feedback and questions concerning this or any other article. Please e-mail me at wworthy@wavewls.com.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO

Michael Banowetz Attends Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

MICHAEL BANOWETZ, son of Ray and Janet Banowetz of Edna, joined youth from across Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 9-15, in Steamboat Springs, CO.

Banowetz was selected from a group of high school applicants by Twin Valley to attend the camp.

“Twin Valley is proud to support the Youth Tour program and send our youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills,” said Ron Holsteen, Twin Valley’s Manager. “Our hope is that local students gained awareness of how our electric cooperatives work and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community.”

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created a complete cooperative based on the product of candy. They established a board of trustees and a general manager that held daily membership meetings.

“Rafting on the Colorado River was the most fun part of the trip,” Banowetz said. “I had a lot of fun and enjoyed the varying challenges on the river from easy to class three (or four) rapids. It was worth experiencing with my friends.”

The campers also took part in legislative presentations, a light and high voltage display and a competi-

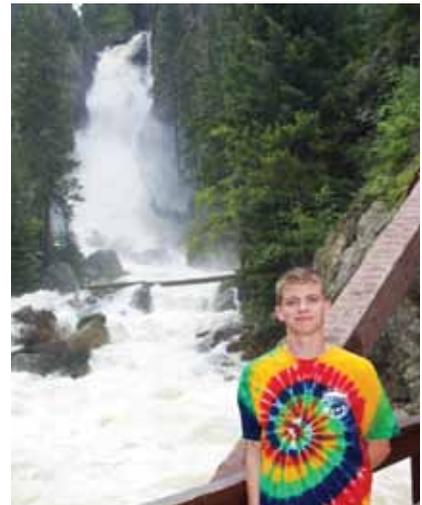


Michael Banowetz, Edna, enjoys the view on top of Lookout Mountain.

tion to build a transmission line. They explored the Steamboat Village, Old Town Steamboat Springs and toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“The students this year exhibited amazing leadership potential,” Shana Read, Kansas Electric Cooperatives Director of Communications said. “Throughout the week, campers developed their leadership skills and learned about electric cooperatives through camp activities. It is amazing to see how much the students’ skills grow in just one week.”

For more information about the trip, call Twin Valley’s office at 866-784-5500.



Michael in front of Fish Creek Falls in Steamboat Springs, CO.



A 240-ton hauling truck parks behind Michael at Trapper Coal Mine in Clark, CO.



The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp brought students together from four states.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship Leads to Beekeeping Business BY JENNIFER WINTERS

Meet **LEVI ECK**, son of Ivan and Eileen Eck rural Edna. Levi's mother was reading the *Good News* newspaper one day and saw an article for the Kansas Honey Producers Association. They were awarding a scholarship to someone interested in beekeeping and wanted to give the winning contestant the necessary items to help start up the hobby.

The program included a mentor for the following year, a complete hive, as well as equipment to work with bees. Eileen spoke with Levi about this opportunity, and he thought it would be a rewarding and fun challenge. Levi decided to enter and was awarded the scholarship.

He was excited for the opportunity and was just 13-years-old when he started putting his skills to work. He would meet with his mentor, Tim Tucker, and discuss anything and everything about bees and the process of honey production.

Levi started this hobby in 2006, but the bees only produced enough for family and friends up until 2010. In 2010, the harvest brought in 186 pounds total, which averages 62 pounds each for the three hives he had producing at that time. Currently, Levi has four hives, three of which are at his home and one that is down the road at his grandmother's.

When Levi checks his hives he starts the process with a match and

lights a small flame inside a smoker. He then pumps the bellows, blowing smoke into the hive, which calms the bees and sends them down into the hive to eat honey. While they are filling their tiny bellies, Levi, masked but with bare hands, is pulling out the wooden frames and checks the combs.

Some combs are full of honey and sealed by bees wax while others may be full of eggs that were laid by the queen bee. After a full inspection, the hive is closed back up and the bees are back to work.

Once the honeycombs are full, Levi removes the wooden frames from the hive and begins the process of retrieving the honey. He removes the beeswax cappings, extracts the honey, strains it and packages it.

Levi is still learning about the beekeeping business but enjoys all aspects of it. He sells honey in three different sizes: \$18 for a half-gallon, \$7.50 for a two pound jar and \$4 for



Since 2006, Levi Eck of Edna has been tending to his bees and producing honey in southwest Kansas.



Honey is for sale in half-gallon, two pound and one pound jars.

toa one pound jar. If you would like to purchase local honey, please contact Levi at 620-714-0366.

Ivan and Eileen Eck have been Twin Valley members since 1985.



The honeycombs are harvested once they are full.



Smoke helps calm the bees, so that Levi can extract the honeycombs.