

Rural Life



INSIDE ...

- * Youth Tour Winner
- * Notification of Annual Meeting
- * Power Line Safety
- * Leadership Camp Winners

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 521
La Junta, CO 81050-0521

LA JUNTA STREET ADDRESS

901 West Third Street
La Junta, CO 81050

LAMAR STREET ADDRESS

3601 S. Main
Lamar, CO 81052

SPRINGFIELD STREET ADDRESS

25107 Highway 160
Springfield, CO 81073

EADS STREET ADDRESS

303 East 14th
Eads, CO 81036

PHONE

719-384-2551 La Junta
719-336-3236 Lamar
719-523-4566 Springfield
719-438-5591 Eads
800-332-8634 Toll free
719-384-7320 fax

www.secpa.com

WINTER HOURS

8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday – Friday



Touchstone Energy®



Partners gather to celebrate the new wind turbine at the school in Walsh.

Walsh School Celebrates Harnassing Wind's Power

The Walsh School in southeastern Colorado held a dedication ceremony February 5 to commemorate its Skystream wind turbine. The district is the first school in the state to install a turbine under the Colorado Governor's Energy Office's Wind for Schools program.

Walsh Superintendent Kyle Hebberd expressed gratitude to the many local partners that it took to bring the project to fruition: the Walsh School Board and staff, the town of Walsh, Jack Wolfe at Southeast Colorado Power, McDonald Electric, Joe and Mike at Sand Arroyo

Energy and the Southeast Colorado RC&D Council. "It demonstrates both the can do spirit of the community and school district," Superintendent Hebberd said.

Major funding for the project was through grants from the Governor's Energy Office WFS program, the National Renewable Energy Lab and the Cooper-Clark Foundation, according to Hebberd. Becki Meadows, NREL Wind Technology Deployment, presented Superintendent Hebberd with a check for NREL's contribution during the ceremony.

Bob Mailander, GEO regional representative, congratulated [continued on page 9]

Official Notice of the 2010 Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of Southeast Colorado Power Association will be held at the Kiowa County Fairgrounds, 15001 Highway 287, Eads, Colorado beginning at 5 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2010, for the transaction of the following business:

- The election of directors of the cooperative: District 1 (Baca County), District 3 (Kiowa County) and District 7 (Crowley and El Paso counties).
- Reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The transaction of all other business that may be properly brought before an Annual Meeting.

Mark Your Calendar – SECPA Annual Meeting

March 25, 2010 – Kiowa County Fairgrounds – Eads, Colorado

Registration5 p.m.
 Dinner.....6 p.m.
 Business Meeting6:45 p.m.



CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH A GREEN HOME

From clovers to leprechauns, green is the color of spring. Get your house in on the trend: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by turning it green with energy-saving practices.

A few major overhauls can make your house greener or more energy efficient. Some examples include installing energy-efficient doors and windows, buying Energy Star-qualified appliances and investing in solar panels.

Small changes can also save energy on a daily basis and improve the environment. Here are a few changes you can try.

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs, which save energy and last longer. Upgrade light fixtures and lamps that won't accept CFLs.
- Save gas and postage stamps by banking and paying your bills online. Deliver other documents by email rather than regular mail to save time and gas.
- Make it a habit to turn off lights and computers at night or when you're finished using them.
- Lower the heating or raise the air-conditioning set point before you leave the house. Close heating and cooling vents in rooms that you rarely use.

Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Candidate Selected

Southeast Colorado Power is happy to announce that Kyle Hartshorn of Granda was selected to attend this summer's Youth Tour. Kyle is the son of Kerry and Shawna Hartshorn of Granada. He is a junior at Granada High School. He has been actively involved in school and community activities. He participates in football, basketball, baseball, FFA, Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society and drama. Community activities for Kyle include 4-H, Junior Colorado Cattlemen's Association and square dancing. Kyle volunteers to help with the 9Health Fair where local elementary students learn about making healthy choices. He also helps clean the cemeteries in Granada and Bristol. He is a member of the Amache Preservation Society and helps maintain the Amache Museum and the Amache World War II Relocation Camp. He had the honor of traveling to Japan with this society.



Kyle Hartshorn

When Kyle is not working or volunteering he enjoys skateboarding, hunting, fishing, biking, making short films, listening to music, traveling, history, public speaking, reading, riding horses and politics. (account number 1606150200)

In all appearances, Kyle looks like a pretty energetic kid, and we sincerely hope he enjoys his week in Washington, D.C.



JACK'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Know Power Line Safety

Before you begin moving equipment or working around any power lines, take this quick power line safety quiz.

1. True or false? Power lines kill more workers than any other electrical source.
2. True or false? Power lines are not insulated for contact.
3. True or false? I should keep myself and any equipment I'm using at least 10 feet away from any power lines.
4. True or false? I can be electrocuted by a power line even if I am wearing gloves and rubber boots.

Power line safety quiz answers

1. True. Power lines are the single greatest on-the-job electrical hazard, killing an average of 133 workers per year.
2. True. While power lines may have a covering to protect against weather,

they are not insulated for contact. Birds can sit on power lines unhurt because they don't represent a path to ground. You and your ladder do.

3. True. You don't need to contact a power line to be in danger; electricity can jump, or arc, from a power line to a worker who gets too close. The best insulator is lots of space. Workers should keep themselves and any equipment they're using a minimum of 10 feet away from power lines, but greater safe distances are recommended.
4. True. Work gloves and rubber boots offer no protection against contact with a power line. Once again, space, and lots of it, is the best insulator. Only properly trained workers with the appropriate personal protective equipment are allowed to work near live power lines.

Walsh School Celebrates Harnessing Wind's Power

[continued from page 7]

Walsh on the achievement and addressed the students present. "I hope this project inspires you to learn more about renewable energy and helps you realize how a few people working together can accomplish much."

Mike Kostrzewa, from the Wind Application Center at Colorado State University, presented the Walsh students with a Skystream turbine blade to display in the school.

"This project began with a meeting in Springfield in January of 2009," Superintendent Heberd said. "Although it took longer than we initially anticipated, here we are a year later generating electricity with this Skystream. Since it went on-line in December of 2009 it has generated 490 kilowatt-hours of energy. We are officially offsetting our energy needs with green power, thanks to the many partners involved."

YOU COULD BE A WINNER

If you find your name in this issue as follows (Win* your name, account number), please contact Paige Horn at Southeast Colorado Power, 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634, to receive a credit on your next power bill. Last month's winner was Harry Nelson, account #1401610000.

Set Back the Thermostat to Save Money, Energy

Many people today are experiencing information overload when it comes to saving energy — and some information seems to conflict with earlier information. One bit of misinformation floating around is that setting your thermostat back during the day doesn't save money because your heating system has to work so hard when you get home to warm the house back up.

In reality, depending on the efficiency of your home, including levels of insulation, you should be able to set your thermostat back several degrees for eight hours a day, which will reduce the number of times your heating system needs to cycle on during the day — and that saves significant energy.

It's true that when you come home and turn up your thermostat, your heating or cooling system will run for a longer period of time to get your home to its optimal temperature. But you'll still have saved more energy (and money) over the eight hours your system worked less intensely. So go ahead and set your thermostat back.



Turn your thermostat back several degrees every night and when you leave home. Better yet — install a programmable thermostat. It will remember to turn the thermostat up and down based on your schedule, so you never have to remember. This could save about \$100 each year.

What's Going On When the Power Blinks?

At one time or another, we have all returned home from work or woken up late for work to see a blinking "12:00" on our digital alarm clock. The electricity has gone off and on. You then have to reset every digital clock in the household that doesn't have battery backup, from the microwave oven to the answering machine. Usually, this power outage is due to a "blink" in the electrical system.

While this can be annoying, the electrical system is working exactly as it is supposed to when it blinks. There are some steps that your electric cooperative can take to reduce the number of blinks on the power system, but there are also some steps that you can take as well.

First, let's look at what a blink is. Momentary power interruptions, or blinks, can occur anywhere on the power system during generation, during high-power transmission from the generation facility to your co-op substation or during distribution from the substation to your home.

Why blinks?

Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, is opened in any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current on the power system. This large rise is called a fault condition and can occur when a tree touches a line, lightning strikes or a wire breaks.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the site where the tree touch, lightning strike or wire break occurred. Then, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay is to allow the fault to clear the power line and usually lasts less than two seconds.

If the fault is cleared, every electrical service that receives power from that power line has just blinked. This could include thousands of homes and businesses if the breaker protects a transmission line or is a substation breaker.

Reducing blinks

There are no solutions that can eliminate blinks on the power system, but fortunately there are methods that your co-op implements to help reduce their frequency.

Tree trimming is probably the easiest and most used method to reduce possible blinks on the power system. This is where your co-op needs your help. Make sure your co-op knows of any trees or limbs located close to a power line. It has, or it hires, right-of-way crews trained to cut and trim trees near power lines.

Reducing the blink's effects

Meanwhile, one way to reduce the frustration of blinking clocks is by purchasing an alarm clock with a battery backup. This type of digital clock has "ride through" ability for momentary outages. It will also keep the correct time and sound an alarm in case of a long-duration outage, provided a charged battery is in place. Another nice thing is that it only uses the battery in the event of a power interruption.

Blinks affect all electrical equipment, not just digital clocks. If there is a blink while you are operating a computer, your computer will crash and you will have to reboot, hoping all the while that there will be few corrupted files. Unfortunately, all the information you were working on will probably be lost. A solution to this problem is to use an uninterruptible power

supply or UPS on your computer.

The UPS incorporates surge suppression technology with battery backup. The battery backup provides the computer with a supplementary power source to ride through a blink or longer duration interruption. The battery backup only allows you a short period of time to save any information and exit your computer properly.

The future of the blink

Blinks will never disappear from our electrical energy delivery system. The best we can do is minimize the effects of the interruptions and the frequency with which they occur.

Your cooperative has an active maintenance program and is always working to identify and fix sources of interruptions. With all those miles of line in the local system, exposure keeps line crews busy.

This article was written by Scott Turner, a former electric co-op employee, who is an electrical engineering consultant at his firm JD Engineering in Hamilton, Montana.

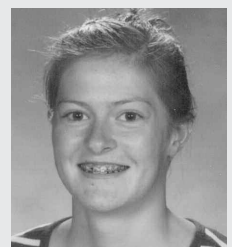
Youth Camp Winners Selected

Andrew Bartolo and Cara Larsen, both students at Swink High School, have been selected to attend the Leadership Youth Camp July 18-23, at the Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs. Both students are excited about the challenges presented with this great opportunity, and SECPA is happy to sponsor them for this event.

At this camp, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming will gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River. They will participate in activities to improve leadership skills and get an inside view of the state and national legislatures. There will also be swim parties,



Andrew Bartolo



Cara Larsen

barbecues, dances and banquets during the week. We truly hope Andrew and Cara will find this one of their most memorable lifetime events.