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Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District
9346 Jewell Rd.
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center
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Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Ken Caudell
Manager of Member and Corporate Services

FROM THE MANAGER

Help Beat the Peak During Summer Months



Dennis Svanes

Summer is upon us. Many people think of summer as a time of recreation — camping and fishing or boating at lakes, watching and playing summer sports and other leisure

activities. Our industrious farmers think about haying and harvesting. Here at your electric cooperative, we think about summer storms and peak load times (peak capacity need).

Our peak load season is June 1 through Sept. 30. Our peak demand for the month sets our wholesale costs which translates to your bills. Our peak for the summer sets the demand rate for the rest of the year. To mitigate these costs, 4 Rivers has 4.65 MW of generation to help control those peaks and lower the cost of power to our consumer-members.

What can you, our consumer-members, do to help with those peaks, which in turn will lower the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your bill?

► On very hot days, reduce consumption from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Turn things off prior to 3 p.m., and delay starting things until after 6 p.m. Dishwashers, washing machines and dryers

are some easy household appliances to delay until after peak times have passed. Grain dryers, welders and electric motors are common farm items that make a difference.

- Another way to help beat the peak on hot days is to raise your air-conditioner thermostat a couple degrees during those times (programmable thermostats make this easier).
- Electric vehicles (EV) will be making a large impact on our demand costs if they are charging during peak times. We earnestly request those charging an EV at their home or business to schedule charging at an off-peak hour whenever possible.

As most of you know, 4 Rivers Electric is a not-for-profit organization. Any cost savings that you, our consumer-members, provide translates directly and immediately onto your power bill.

If you prefer to have a more leveled monthly payment and avoid the monthly bill fluctuations associated with air-conditioning and heating usage, consider moving your account(s) to Budget Billing. Budget billed accounts are adjusted periodically, usually twice a year, to account for changes in power usage. Budget Billing takes the guesswork out of estimating how much your next power bill will be.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like to move your account(s) to Budget Billing.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Getting to Know Your Co-op Team

From lineworkers to member service representatives to managers, your 4 Rivers team is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service to our membership. Meet three co-op team members who go above and beyond to serve you.



Allen Miller

ALLEN MILLER is a journeyman lineman in the south district and started with Radiant Electric in 2015. If you ask Allen about his dream job, he will tell you it would be anything that allows him to spend some time in the sky, so he enjoys being a lineman and working outside. Allen's day usually includes working with the construction crew building and maintaining the system, such as constructing new services and changing out poles and conductor. Some of the biggest advancements Allen has seen are in safety and technology such as flame resistant clothing and mapping, which protect the team and help 4 Rivers serve our consumer-members.

Allen grew up in Neodesha and now lives in Fredonia. He is inspired by his father, an honest and hardworking person. When Allen is not working, you can find him playing golf, helping in the community, volunteering for Lions Club, building fireworks displays or spending time at the shooting range. Allen would like our members to know that the cooperative strives hard to provide safe and reliable service to them and is here for our members in both the best and the worst of times. Our thanks go to Allen for his dedication to the cooperative and our consumer-members.



Ken Caudell

KEN CAUDELL is manager of member and corporate services and works in the Lebo office. Ken started with Lyon-Coffey 13 years ago and is responsible for the cooperative's IT support, integrations and technology upgrades. Ken notes the best parts of his job are member interactions, working with unique innovations of technology, diverse task assignments, work environment and his co-workers.

Ken and his wife, Malissa, have been married over 25 years, live in Melvern and have two children: a son who is a software engineer in California and a daughter who is finishing her education to work in the medical field.

When Ken is not working, you can find him at the bowling center, working with his wife in the garden or taking care of their animals. Ken is looking forward to traveling; visiting Egyptian pyramids, swimming with sharks and visiting the Serengeti are a few things on his list. Our thanks go to Ken for his dedication to the cooperative!



Brian Hanson

BRIAN HANSON started with the cooperative eight years ago on the Lyon-Coffey staff and is an engineering technician based in the north district.

Brian helps design new service installations and enjoys meeting our members and helping them with design requirements. Over the years, he has seen advancements in the technology and tools used to design line extensions and new services, making the process quicker and more efficient.

Brian graduated from Emporia and has been married to his wife, Tammi, for almost 27 years. They have four children and six grandchildren of whom he is very proud. Brian is most inspired by Jesus, followed next by his wife. In his spare time, he enjoys being outdoors, golfing, gardening, boating and hanging out with family. One of Brian's favorite places to vacation is the mountains. He is looking forward to retirement, so he can enjoy traveling, spending time with family and being outdoors more. Brian would like our members to know that we are here to help. Our thanks go to Brian for his commitment to bringing safe, reliable electricity to our consumer-members.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

SOURCE: NRECA



4 Rivers Welcomes New Employees

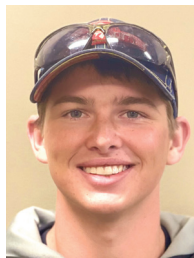
ELIJAH BAKER

is interning this summer in the south district on the construction crew. He recently completed the lineman training program at Coffeyville

Community College and is a Fredonia High School alumnus.

TEMPIST EVENSON was hired as member service representative in March and is based out of the Fredonia office. She joins us from the aviation sector and brings over 13 years of marketing and customer service experience. She lives in Fredonia with her husband and two sons.

TODD FRITCH began working for 4



Elijah Baker



Tempist Evenson



Todd Fritch



Clete Hertenson



Shane Touslee

Rivers in March as an apprentice lineman and currently lives in Emporia. He previously worked for the City of Iola and is based out of our Lebo office.

CLETE HERTENSON joined our engineering tech team in March and is no stranger to co-op life as the former engineering service supervisor at Canadian Valley Electric. He recently relocated from Shawnee, Oklahoma, with his wife, Rhonda, and is working

out of the Fredonia office.

SHANE TOUSLEE started with the co-op in March as a GIS/mapping technician. Shane is an Emporia State University and Kansas State University alum and comes to us from National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) where he specialized in the mapping application used by 4 Rivers. He lives in Emporia and is based in the Lebo office.

Tree Trimming Improves Service for All

One of the best things about our service territory is the natural beauty all around us. At 4 Rivers Electric, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way.

A right-of-way (ROW) is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. A ROW enables the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, 4 Rivers Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our consumer-members while maintaining the beauty of our community.

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas.

Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members

and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone.

Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

We also want to ensure member safety by completing the tree trimming near power lines by using OSHA-certified tree trimmers. Trimming tree limbs near power lines is a dangerous job and has many hazards. We do not want our members attempting to trim any limbs near power lines.

Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power

outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

We also use data and our technology to maximize the efficiency of our operation. This includes our vegetation management plan.

Affordability

As you know, 4 Rivers Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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We Are Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

Now that summer is in full swing, most of us welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the weather. Summertime brings activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. Our region is known for harmful tornadoes and severe storms, often destroying everything in the storm's path. These potential weather events can also cause destruction to our electrical system, but 4 Rivers Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they work on any downed lines. We encourage members to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness but visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, bat-

teries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This helps avert damage from a power surge and helps prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it is rated to handle the amount of power you will need and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check 4 Rivers' Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs including on your property.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, download the SmartHub mobile app and follow 4 Rivers Electric on Facebook & Twitter to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

Hopefully, we will not experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. We encourage our consumer-members to act today, because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

