

It's a Good Time To Be a Co-op Member



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

You've been hearing the bad news about the economy, rising energy prices, job losses, health-care costs and unscrupulous corporate leaders for some time now. Not a pretty picture out there. Some issues are so broad in scope that everyone is affected to some degree, including your family, friends and neighbors who belong to Lamar Electric Cooperative.

For more than a year, we've been using these pages to inform you about climate-change proposals on the state and national levels that will raise the cost of power. We could bury our heads in the sand and hope the problem goes away. Instead, we draw upon the strength of our membership to

make our voices heard in Washington, D.C., and Austin. The national cooperative campaign—"Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue with America"—resulted in millions of emails and phone calls to elected officials in Congress asking the question, "What will you do to keep electricity affordable for Americans?"

We will keep you knowledgeable about advantages and disadvantages of proposals such as carbon cap-and-trade or the carbon tax. An informed membership is an effective membership, one that supports tough board decisions in difficult times.

As we tighten our belts, we'll also keep you informed about the most effective ways to save energy and lower your electricity bills. In these pages you can learn about everything from energy-efficiency standards to do-it-yourself weatherization projects with big returns for your investment. You've learned that the more energy you save, the less wholesale power Lamar EC has to buy. That's another way to keep costs down.

As the stimulus money for weatherization and energy-efficiency programs becomes available, we will keep you informed on how to qualify for rebates and tax credits. One of the seven cooperative principles is to keep members informed, not only about the workings of your co-op, but about issues that affect the quality of your life as a consumer of electricity.

It's always been that way, and it will continue to be that way.

So, despite the uncertain times and changes ahead, it's still a good time to be a co-op member.

During good times and bad, you can count on Lamar EC to keep you informed—and keep the lights on.

DON'T MESS AROUND WITH POWER LINES— EVEN IF THEY'RE DOWN

Downed power lines can look relatively harmless. But don't be fooled. They likely carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. These tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even normally nonconductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.

- Do not drive over downed lines.

- If you are in a car that is in contact with the downed line, stay in the car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

- If you must leave your vehicle because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid making contact with the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the vehicle to the earth.



Two Area Students Win Free Trip to Washington, D.C.

Laney Jackson and Kent Kirby are the winners of Lamar Electric Cooperative's Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Essay Contest.

The two winners are among approximately 100 other winners of similar

the tour participants will come together to visit the White House and conclude the day with an all-states dinner and dance. With this exception, each state delegation will tour by itself.

Also included on the tour will be



LANEY JACKSON



KENT KIRBY

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2009 YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

contests from Texas who will make the trip to the nation's capital for a tour of its many historic sites, June 11-19.

Laney is the daughter of LEC member Richard Geron Jackson and Glenna Jackson of Pattonville. She is a student at Prairiland High School. Kent is the son of LEC members Jim Kirby Jr. and Mary Alice Kirby of Paris. He is a student at North Lamar High School.

The tour will originate in Irving, Texas. From there, the group will head for Washington, D.C., where they will meet with approximately 1,200 other young people from across the nation. Once in Washington, the tour participants will get to see and tour many historic places such as Mount Vernon and the U.S. Capitol, where they will meet and watch their congressional representatives in action. One day, all

places like the National Cathedral, Ford's Theatre and Petersen House, Smithsonian Museums, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Washington Monument, FDR Memorial, National Geographic Society, Kennedy Center, Arlington Cemetery, Kennedy's Grave, the Tomb of the Unknowns, Jefferson Memorial, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Memorial. Tour participants will have an opportunity to win other trips while they are in Washington.

To be eligible for the Youth Tour contest, you must be between 15 and 19 years of age and have completed your sophomore year of high school. In addition, your parents or legal guardians must be residing members of Lamar Electric Cooperative.



**LAMAR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

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For general information and outages after hours, call
(903) 784-4303 local or
1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River,
Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at
www.lamarelectric.coop

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YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

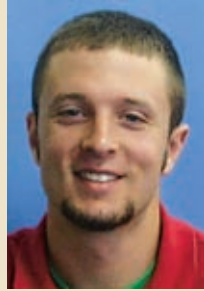
This section of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- Visa, Discover and MasterCard accepted



AMBER LYNN DILLARD



HUNTER RAY BERRY

Lamar Electric Cooperative Awards Scholarships

This year Lamar Electric Cooperative awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are active co-op members. The money that funds the co-op's scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits that are returned by the State of Texas each year.

Hunter Ray Berry and Amber Lynn Dillard are the two winners of the 2009 Lamar Electric Cooperative scholarships. Both winners are awarded \$1,000 to be used at the college or university of their choice.

Hunter is the son of LEC member Cathy Howard of Sumner. He is a 2009 candidate for graduation at North Lamar High School.

Amber is the daughter of LEC members Brad and Cindy Dillard of Roxton. She is a 2009 candidate for graduation at Roxton High School.

"Lamar Electric Co-op has provided scholarships to students in our community since 2000," said Marci Thompson, Member Services representative. "We are proud that we have been able to help these students achieve their educational goals."

H.B. 3203, enacted in 1999, allows nonprofit electric cooperatives to put unclaimed funds, previously collected by the Texas Comptroller's Office for the State General Fund, to use for student scholarships.

The law states that scholarship recipients should be rural students and that they must attend college, technical school or other post-secondary educational institutions.

PRIMETIME TROOP DUTY HELPS SOLDIERS KEEP THEIR COOL

PrimeTime Troop Duty has boxes of cool ties and helmet coolers ready to be shipped to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. All that is needed are addresses of U.S. military stationed in one of these two countries. There is no charge for these coolers! All that is asked of the person requesting the shipment is the name and address of the military person, and the name, address and phone number of the person requesting the shipment. It's that simple!

No, you do not have to make a donation. If you choose to make a donation, please make your check out to PrimeTime and in the "for" space, write "Troop Duty." PrimeTime cannot sell these items, and they can only be sent to troops in Iraq or Afghanistan. Please send all correspondence to: PrimeTime Senior Program, 1128 Clarksville St., Suite 300, Paris, TX 75460 or Lisa.House@parisrnc.com.

Thank you and please keep our military and their families in your daily prayers.

Lisa House
Director of Volunteers and
PrimeTime Senior Program
(903) 737-3672



- Keep the freezer as full as possible.
- Mark items in the freezer for quick identification to reduce door-opening time.
- Turn the freezer off if it is empty.
- Regularly defrost the freezer if it does not do so automatically.
- Clean the condenser coils and check the seals.

Co-op Connections

1st Choice Pest Control

OFFERING \$10 OFF INITIAL GENERAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

■ Ricky Williams, state-licensed certified applicator. Call (903) 785-5679 to schedule an appointment.

B&D Taxidermy

OFFERING \$10 OFF TAXIDERMY SERVICES

■ Benzy and Debbie Jo Hostetler, Owners. Call (903) 737-8604.

Checks to Cash

15 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON CHECK-CASHING FEES

■ 3185 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 785-6666.

Gillie Insulation

10 PERCENT OFF WITH YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

■ Lowell Gillie, Owner. Call (903) 982-6399.

Jackson-Hewitt

25 PERCENT OFF TAX PREPARATION FEES ONLY. DISCOUNT MUST BE DISCLOSED WHEN ASKED DURING INTERVIEW PROCESS.

■ 3185 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 737-0811.

Papa Murphy's Pizza

OFFERING \$3 OFF FAMILY-SIZE PIZZA (LIMIT 3 PER ORDER)

■ 2705 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 785-0036.

Quality Craft Picture Frames

OFFERING 20 PERCENT OFF CUSTOM FRAMING INCLUDING FRAME, MAT AND GLASS

■ 2030 Clarksville St. in Paris. Call (903) 785-2760.

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\$20,022.74 Saved

on prescriptions by members using their Co-op Connections® Card

In December, 285 prescriptions were filled and members saved \$2,559.11, averaging 21 percent off the retail price.

This valuable member benefit is absolutely free!

Want to do some price checking on your prescriptions? Visit www.rxpricequotes.com to see the discounted price from our local pharmacies.



Even if you have medical coverage, compare your coverage to the discounts. Sometimes the Co-op Connections discount is better than your medical insurance!

The pharmacy will need the group and member numbers on the back of the card to process the discount.

Kid Safe Saturday



1. Marti Chumbley and Gretta Ashford hand out electrical safety educational materials to visitors of Kids Safe Saturday.

2. Scott Sansom performs a safety demonstration using the PowerTown Safety Model while Jimmy McFadden, LEC safety coordinator, observes.

3. Ricky Crump replaces batteries in one of the LED strobe-light necklaces that were given to those in attendance at Kids Safe Saturday.

4. Gretta Ashford and James Smith stay busy handing out goodies at the Lamar Electric Co-op booth. Approximately 2,000 people were in attendance at the annual event March 28, 2009.

5. A crowd gathers to watch Scott Sansom present a safety demonstration. Lamar Electric Co-op will bring this safety model to the classroom or schools can bring classes to the LEC offices for a safety program. Contact Member Services for more information.



6. Dana McFadden, Tessi McFadden and Rachael Bohler hand out pencils, stickers and coloring books to kids at the LEC booth.



Honest Folks Don't Mess With Meters!

Unfortunately, however, not everyone is honest. Meter tampering is illegal. And, it can be quite dangerous because of the risk of exposure to high voltage. When a person "steals" electricity, the thief is stealing from fellow utility consumers, neighbors and other customers who ultimately pay for the "stolen" electricity.

Seals on meters serve the same purpose as locks on doors—they prevent unauthorized entry. Even though meter seals and connections are checked periodically, you can help Lamar Electric Cooperative by spreading the word that breaking a meter seal is illegal and dangerous.

The thief and co-op personnel can be injured—or even killed—because of a meter that's been altered.

If you notice a meter that's been tampered with, please contact us immediately. Not only will you help lower the overall cost of electricity, you could save a life.



NORTHEAST TEXAS

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

FREE ADMISSION FOR SPECTATORS!

*CAR SHOW • SWAP MEET • CAR CORRAL • MOTORCYCLES
ARTS/CRAFTS • DOOR PRIZES • FOOD • FAMILY FUN*

This car show is hosted by the Red River Valley Honkers Region Car Club and will benefit the Red River Valley Veteran's Memorial soon to be built just south of the Love Civic Center in Paris. Honkers is pleased to have an opportunity to benefit the Veteran's Memorial and remember those who have given their all that we may enjoy the freedoms we have today. God Bless America.

TOYOTA OF PARIS
CORPORATE SPONSOR

LOVE CIVIC CENTER • 2025 S. Collegiate, Paris

June 13, 2009
(Rain date—June 14)

REGISTRATION: 8–11 a.m.

Judging ends at 2:30 p.m. • Awards presentations at 4 p.m.



EARLY REGISTRATION FEE

\$15 (outside)
\$25 (inside—arts and crafts)
After June 5, add \$5 for registration

Covered parking on concrete for first 30 arrivals!

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Red River Valley Honkers Region of Antique Automobile Club of America
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