



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330  
 866-784-5500  
 www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY  
 ELECTRIC CO-OP  
**NEWS**

**Twin Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.**

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**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday  
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Contact Us**

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The *Labette Avenue* regular subscription is \$42, with Co-op

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**FROM THE MANAGER**

**Peak Demand Time Frame Changes**

For the past several years, we have requested that each of our members voluntarily cut back on their electrical usage beginning at 3 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. to reduce our peak demand. This year our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), adopted a new rate tariff that went into effect June 1. The main change in the new tariff is a provision that our peak demand will be set only during the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. This new peak demand period will make it much easier for our members to voluntarily control their peak demand and help save your cooperative many dollars in wholesale power costs.

**What is demand?**

Electric demand refers to the maximum amount of electrical power (kW) that is being consumed at any given time as compared to energy (kWh), which is the amount of power used over a period of time.

For example, a typical hand iron requires, or demands, 1,000 watts (1 kW) of power when it is turned on. If that iron is used for two hours, it consumes 2,000 watt-hours (2 kWh) of energy. Using multiple appliances at the same time increases your demand. A typical dishwasher has a demand of 1,200 watts. If you used the dishwasher at the same time as the hand iron, the

total demand for these two appliances would be 1,000 watts plus 1,200 watts or 2,200 watts. If instead you choose to operate these appliances at separate times, the maximum demand would be only 1,200 watts.

**What can I do to help Twin Valley lower its power costs?**

Our members can help lower Twin Valley's wholesale cost of power by reducing their peak demand on those hot summer weekdays (when the temperature is over 95 degrees) by not operating appliances such as your dishwasher, oven, washer, dryer and electric water heater. In other words, put off doing the laundry and cooking dinner until after 6 p.m. The peak demand period is typically when your air conditioner has to work the hardest, so keep doors closed, turn up the thermostat and take any steps you can to keep the air conditioner from running.

The peak demand that our members set during this three-hour period on weekdays during July and August sets a large portion of Twin Valley's cost of wholesale power for the following eight months of October through May of the following year. The new rate tariff provides us a great opportunity to work together to significantly lower our power costs. If you have any questions, please contact



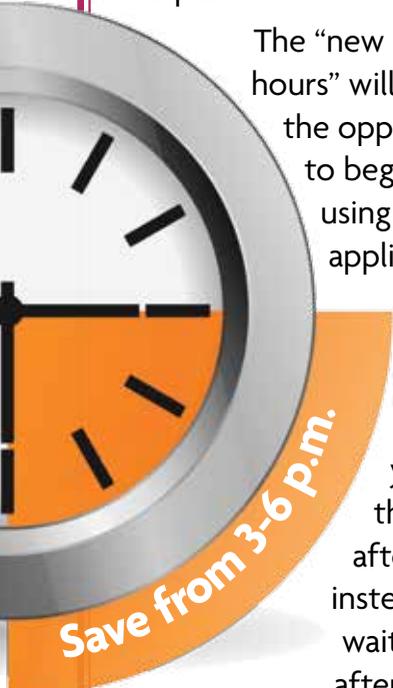
Ron Holsteen

## Beginning **June 1** Peak Demand Period Changed to **NEW** Hours **3 to 6 p.m.**

Effective June 1, the new time period for peak demand begins at 3 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

The “new peak hours” will give you the opportunity to begin using your appliances or

cooling off your home by lowering your thermostat after 6 p.m. instead of waiting until after 8 p.m.



Save from 3-6 p.m.

## Questions?

Call 866-784-5500

### Twin Valley's Office will be Closed July 4th

Twin Valley Electric will be closed Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.



# Working on the LINE



Twin Valley Lineman **SETH STRASSER** repairs a ravin on Highway 160. A ravin is when a strand of the aluminum conductor breaks. This affects the electrical performance of the conductor and can affect the tensile strength. Line maintenance and repairs such as this are common at Twin Valley to insure system reliability for our members.

## Ortiz to Attend Cooperative Camp

**RICKY ORTIZ**, was selected by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO, in July.

To win this trip, students were asked to complete an application, take a quiz and be interviewed in front of a panel of judges.

Ortiz will join approximately 100 other high school juniors from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to participate in the leadership camp sponsored by the electric cooperatives in each state.

As part of the week-long adventure, the students will establish a candy cooperative business, in which they elect a general manager and board of directors, participate in daily membership meetings and pay their dues membership of 50 cents to the newly established co-op business.

“The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is specifically designed to empower student leaders and help them better understand the cooperative business model,” said Ron Hols-

teen, CEO of Twin Valley Electric. “This camp not only highlights the co-op’s commitment to their communities, but it also helps teach the students to become community leaders.”



Ricky Ortiz

When not tending to their candy cooperative, the students will learn about electric co-ops, witness a high-voltage safety demonstration and build a transmission line from craft supplies. The youth will go on a river rafting excursion and tour local sites like Steamboat Springs, Fish Creek Falls, Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative sponsors one student each year as part of our commitment to community and our mission to help develop our next generation of leaders. For more information about the trip, contact Jennifer Winters, 620-784-5500.

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

# *Don't Hesitate!* Call Twin Valley When Equipment Comes into Contact with a Power Line



**William Worthy**

I hope everyone is having a great summer and avoiding the high temperatures by staying in the air conditioning powered by the reliability of your Twin Valley

Electric Cooperative.

On Wednesday, June 10, our office started receiving calls concerning an outage on Chase Road in Labette County. The calls were the common "my power just went off" calls until the one that was transferred to me. A farmer told me one of his workers clipped a pole and it broke. The pole was laying on the implement he was pulling and the wires were on the cab of the tractor. The caller told me he advised the worker to stay in the cab until Twin Valley crews could get there (see pictures).

The first Twin Valley truck to arrive was a pickup. These employees opened the oil circuit recloser and dropped the jumpers from the ground using a long yellow fiberglass pole that we call an "extendo." This de-energized the line and provided a visual open. But, in accordance with our safety rules, a line is not considered safe until it is grounded. Another crew arrived shortly after to install grounds, and the worker was able to exit the tractor.

Extreme caution is taken in these situations



**If farm equipment comes into contact with a power pole, be sure to stay on the tractor and call Twin Valley immediately at 866-784-5500.**

for two reasons: the tractor could be energized; and the possibility of step potential. In the first situation, the primary line, in our case 7,620/13,200 volts, could be contacting the tractor or vehicle. The rubber tires act like an insulator. If the person inside gets out and touches the ground while touching the vehicle, he creates the path to ground and will be shocked or electrocuted.

If there is a hazardous situation, such as a resulting fire, you may have to jump clear of the vehicle making sure not to touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. In this case, you will also need to shuffle your feet keeping both on the ground and as close together as possible until you are as far away from the vehicle as you can get. If you cannot get very far away, stand in one spot with your feet together until crews arrive. Step potential occurs when primary voltage is introduced into the ground and ripples out. The difference in voltage between feet in the stride of an adult could be up to 2,000 volts.

I hope this helps you understand the dangers of downed poles and/or wires. If you have any questions about this or suggestions for ideas for this article, you can email me directly at [wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop](mailto:wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop).

**Staying in the tractor is the safest place to be when you come into contact with a power line. Touching the ground could result in electrocution.**



# A Cyber Security Plan from the Experts

Could a computer hacker shut down the nation's electric grid? It's a question asked in popular books, congressional hearings, and it's even the plot point in the 2007 Bruce Willis movie "Live Free or Die Hard."

Most experts answer that question with, "probably not." Part of the reason for that answer is there are a lot of people in government and the utility industry like Barry Lawson of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

As NRECA's Associate Director of Power Delivery and Reliability, Lawson spends his time working with electric co-op utilities to try to protect utilities from digital hackers.

Lawson and several others at NRECA run cyber security training sessions, publish security safety materials and develop techniques and software not only to keep the nation's electric supply reliable and secure, but to also protect sensitive member, employee and co-op data and information from identity theft.

Lawson says co-ops make a high priority

of protecting themselves from the constant variety of cyber computer attacks by everyone from organized crime to hobbyist hackers, who are constantly launching attacks on every computer in the world.

"We're all being hacked," Lawson said. "As soon as you connect a new computer to the Internet, it's being hacked by software that looks for Internet connections by the millions."

Lawson says we can all use advice that's the basis for how utilities protect themselves from cyberattacks: "Try to make it as difficult as possible, and put in as many layers of protection as possible."

Here are Lawson's top four tips for protecting your computer:

**1 Make sure you have antivirus software installed** on your computer, and remember to keep it updated.

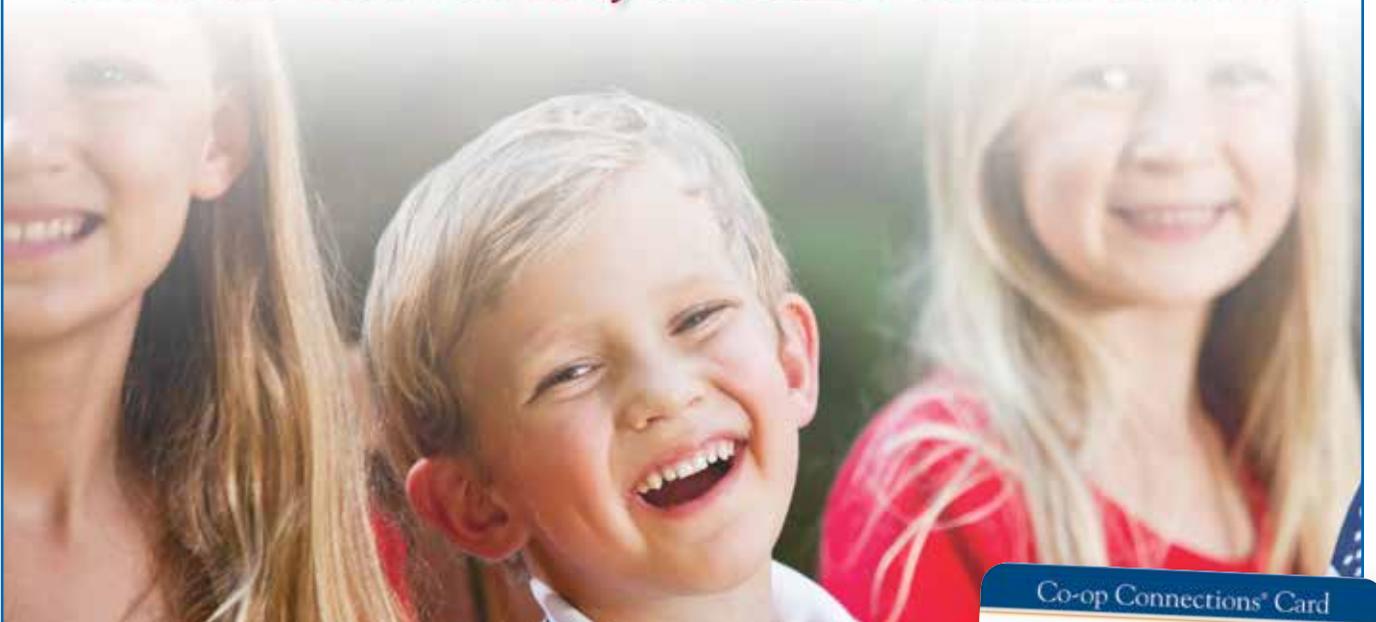
**2 Don't send emails containing personal information**, like your date of birth or Social Security number, because that increases opportunities for identity

theft. Be careful of typing a credit card number into a website—if you do, make sure that it's a secure website. You can tell whether it's secure by looking for the "s" at the beginning of the website address. Most begin with "http://." A secure site will begin with "https://."

**3 Attachments or links in an email can contain malware**—viruses, spyware and other unwanted software that gets installed on your computer or mobile device without your consent—that can infect your computer. Don't open an email attachment or click a link unless you know the person sending it, and you were expecting them to send it to you (hackers can take over an account and make it look like it's from a friend.)

**4 Monitor children's online activity**, and make sure they know good cyber security. Visit the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team's (UC-CERT) website at [www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-002](http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-002) for security tips on how to keep children safe online.

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