

Along these **LINES**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

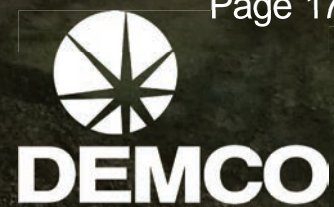
Ten hurricanes make
U.S. landfall in 2020:
impacts felt in Louisiana
Page 20


Manager's Report

Page 4

Youth Tour Essay Contest

Page 17



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



/DEMCOLouisiana

DEMCO.org



LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

At Mueller, we soar above the rest with our manufacturing capabilities, outstanding quality and long-lasting performance. From workshops and agricultural buildings to complex projects such as airplane hangars, we provide solid building solutions backed by an even stronger warranty. Contact us today to take-off on your dream building.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



Louisiana Cooperatives Recover From Not One, But Two Big Hurricanes in a Span of Six Weeks



CEO Jeff Arnold

On August 27, 2020, Louisiana suffered one of its strongest hurricane landfalls of all time. Hurricane Laura caused massive damage throughout southwest, central, northwest and northeast Louisiana.

Never before has a storm reached Interstate 20 still classified as a hurricane, with sustained winds of more than 75 mph. Six weeks later—before repairs from Laura could be finished—Hurricane Delta pummeled us again, setting back the recovery efforts of our member cooperatives.

Laura’s widespread damage mostly affected four of our member cooperatives: Jeff Davis Electric, Beauregard Electric, Claiborne Electric and Panola-Harrison Electric.

Transmission problems across south and central Louisiana continue to cause problems. We are focused on getting our distribution lines ready so our members

without power can receive it as soon as transmission lines are operational.

Right before this publication went to print, we had all our electric cooperatives fully restored except for 25% of Jeff Davis Electric. Then Hurricane Delta came ashore October 9, 2020, inflicting more damage in storm-torn areas.

Hurricane Delta was far more reaching. Damaging winds affected all our Louisiana electric cooperatives: the four that dealt with Laura plus DEMCO, SLECA and WSTE.

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives has initiated our mutual-aid agreements, bringing in more than 1,000 cooperative linemen and crews from more than 14 states to help our member cooperatives rebuild.

All co-ops operate under the Seven Cooperative Principles. One of those is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Louisiana’s electric cooperatives, our mutual-aid co-op partners from around the country and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association are working together to keep you informed as we rebuild transmission and distribution structures.

After these devastating events, the

human heart always shines. People come to the aid of their fellow man—especially so in our cooperative community.

As our employees work hard to rebuild your electric system and restore your power, they face personal struggles from the devastation Laura has left behind. Forty employees lost their homes or suffered major damage. In keeping with another of our Seven Cooperative Principles—Concern for Community—the ALEC Hurricane Relief Fund was activated to help affected employees of Beauregard Electric and Jeff Davis Electric.

As the holiday season swiftly approaches, we take time to reflect on 2020. We have had many trials and tribulations, starting with the COVID-19 pandemic and including the hurricanes that hit our state.

One thing is for certain: Louisianians are resilient, hardworking people. We face our challenges head on, and we count our blessings while doing so.

Your Louisiana electric cooperatives hope you relish in the blessings of this holiday season and face 2021 with the tenacity that has brought us through 2020. ■

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

Staff

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jeff Arnold

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Beama Pierce

DIRECTOR OF LOSS CONTROL

Aarron Graham

SAFETY COORDINATOR

Derek Seal

DIR. OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Addie Armato

CREDIT UNION

Robin Plunket, manager
Jody Overhultz, representative

Board of Directors

President J.R. Hickman
Vice President Dennis Glass
Secretary/Treasurer Michael Heinen
NRECA Director Jeff Arnold



ALEC Members

Beauregard Electric Cooperative Inc.

J.R. Hickman Teddy Welch

Claiborne Electric Cooperative Inc.

Mark Brown Lane Davidson

Dixie Electric Membership Corp.

Daniel Berthelot Leslie Falks

Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Inc.

Michael Heinen Kirk Weldon

South Louisiana Electric Co-op Association

Brian Rivet Roger Dale DeHart

Washington-St. Tammany Electric Co-op Inc.

Joe Jarrell Dennis Glass

Associate Member

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Inc.



Rallying to Rebuild

Cooperatives from across the state and nation send help to restore power after devastation from hurricanes Laura and Delta

Page 6

Local Pages 4, 5, 8, 17, 20, 21
In the Kitchen 12



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ASCENSION

Clarence Brock

EAST BATON ROUGE

Steve Irving
Randy Lorio, Vice President
Jill McGraw

EAST FELICIANA

Mike Anderson
Glenn DeLee

LIVINGSTON

Danny Berthelot, President
Leslie Falks
Dennis Lott, Secretary-Treasurer

ST. HELENA

Tresa Byrd
Richard Sitman

TANGIPAHOA

Melissa Dufreche

WEST FELICIANA

Kevin Beauchamp

CEO & GENERAL MANAGER

Randy Pierce

VP, FINANCE

Mike Johnson

VP, MARKETING AND MEMBER SERVICES

David Latona

VP, HUMAN RESOURCES

Russchelle Overhultz, CEBS

DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING

Matt Gibson

DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS

Mark Phillips

Mission

DEMCO is focused on enhancing the quality of life for members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy services.

Volume 35, Issue 6

Along These Lines (USPS 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

Annual Subscriptions: Members \$2.64, Nonmembers \$5.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 10725 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Periodicals postage paid at Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 and additional mailing offices.

DEMCO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Manager's Report

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about DEMCO and our concern for community. This is one of the core principles that sets us and other electric cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a member-owned co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our members during this turbulent time.

Not only are we there for our own members, but we are also there whenever another co-op needs our support. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven core principles of our business model. Being a co-op means we help each other. Over the past 45 days, DEMCO has been on the giving and receiving end of this cooperative principle.

We are very fortunate that Hurricanes Marco and Laura dodged our service areas, but other electric co-ops in west Louisiana were not so lucky. DEMCO crews rolled out in caravans to assist our friends to the west in the aftermath of Laura. (story on pgs 20-21)

We know what it's like because we have experienced outages of similar impact following many storms in the past, including Hurricane Gustav in 2008. Whether it's crews, staff or supplies that are needed - we know how much it means to give and receive help when it's most needed. (story on pg 5)

Little did we know that only weeks later, the DEMCO electric distribution system would be struck by Hurricane Delta. Outages due to the effects of Delta peaked at almost 42,000 and at the time of publication of *Along These Lines*, DEMCO employees and contractors were being assisted by more than 125 electric cooperative linemen from Alabama and Florida to help complete restoration of service to the last 9,000 DEMCO members left without electricity following the storm.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. When you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—after all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. You're probably aware of our Operation Round-Up program, where donations from generous members like you are "rounded up" to the nearest dollar of the amount due on their electric bill to help our most vulnerable neighbors in their times of need.

Or our Youth Tour program, where we take four high school DEMCO member-students to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion experience to witness democracy in action. (see information for 2021 essay contest on page 17)

Because we live and work here too, we want to make it a better place for all. Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are.

Part of being a good citizen is exercising our right to vote. While local elections may not be as exciting as a high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and quality of life. In this issue, you can learn more about the Louisiana Public Service Commission. (story on pg. 8)

The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people. A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures a diverse number of views are represented. By voting in national, state and local elections, you are a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future.

I look forward to casting my vote and encourage each of you to vote on Tuesday, November 3.



DEMCO employees gathered and delivered supplies to hundreds of crews working to restore power to co-op members in Jennings and DeRidder in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. From left: Chanon Martin, Carl Westbrook, Julie Burns, Brad Everett, Veronica Claiborne and Dusty Guarino.

Who Powers You? DEMCO Responds

By Cheré Coen

When disaster strikes, hundreds of utility crews bolt into action to restore power to members. Tent cities are established to house and feed both the local and visiting crews arriving to help.

With 600 utility workers working at tent cities at Jeff Davis Electric Co-op in Lake Charles and 1,200 utility workers working at Beauregard Electric Co-op outside DeRidder, a shortage of personal hygiene and cleaning materials became a challenge.

DEMCO CEO and General Manager Randy Pierce challenged his employees

to contribute items to meet this need, to be matched by company donations.

“Our team got on that right away,” says David Latona, vice president of marketing and member services. “It’s what we do in co-op nation.”

DEMCO asked both co-ops what items were needed for their employees and the crews visiting from across the United States. They collected everything from sunscreen and foot powder to cleaning items and food. They filled two trailers with those much-needed items and delivered them to Lake Charles and DeRidder.

Working out among the elements takes a toll on utility crews, especially in Louisiana after a hurricane when hot, humid conditions exist. Throw in red ants, mosquitoes and sometimes swampy terrain and the needs become great.

“Having foot powder, bug spray, anti-itch medication, sunscreen, socks, deodorant, toothpaste, shaving cream and razors goes a long way to

making the unbearable just a little more comfortable,” David says.

One donation that was not tangible was the friendship the visits offered.

“I think the most value to our sister co-ops was seeing a friendly face, someone from outside the disaster zone who understood their pain,” David says. “They were glad to have a friendly shoulder.”

DEMCO understands what a kind gesture means after a disaster hits, being on the receiving end when Hurricane Gustav in 2008 interrupted power for almost every DEMCO member. Cooperatives around the state and country came to DEMCO’s aid then, and again in 2016 during the historic flood. (Account No. 80159891001)

Helping JDEC and BECi employees and their members, plus the visiting crews assisting in the recovery from Laura, is far from over, David explains. DEMCO will continue to provide supplies to both co-ops as long as they are needed.

“We are definitely going to do more deliveries,” he says. “And our bond will last longer than any storm can damage a community.” ■

Sign Up for Bank Draft!

DEMCO members who pay their bill by bank draft are eligible to win a \$50 gift card! Winning account numbers are published in each issue of Along these LINES.

Congratulations to these winners: Accounts #80196330001, #80262149003, #80132751001 and #80128828002.

It’s easy to sign up and be eligible to win!
Go to [DEMCO.org/PaymentOptions](https://www.demco.org/PaymentOptions)
or call 1-844-MyDEMCO.

Rallying to Rebuild

Neighboring cooperatives respond to call for help after historic hurricane

By Pamela A. Keene

Destructive beyond description. The worst hurricane to make landfall in southwest Louisiana since 1851, when hurricanes were first tracked. Hurricane Rita on steroids.

Hurricane Laura was merciless and on a mission, growing from a Category 1 to a Category 4 storm in the 36 hours before parading up the western side of Louisiana and turning eastward.

When Laura made landfall in the early morning of

Thursday, August 27, near Cameron, Louisiana, she unleashed 150-mph winds and dumped truckloads of rain, much of it falling in horizontal sheets. She flattened buildings, blew out windows, snapped and uprooted trees, and left many people homeless.

Miles of electrical lines, thousands of utility poles and transformers, and dozens of substations were damaged or destroyed, leaving people in the dark—some for a few days, others for much longer.

“When there’s a crisis, no matter what part of the state, our co-ops are ready to spring into action,” says Addie Armato, ALEC director of membership engagement. “They know that members are counting on them to help get power restored as safely and quickly as possible. Whether

the situation is in their own co-op or that of a sister co-op, their responsibility is the same.”

Four Louisiana co-ops were in Laura’s path. The hurricane left all consumer-members of Beaugard Electric and Jeff Davis Electric without power, and 98% of Claiborne Electric’s customers were in the dark. Panola-Harrison Electric—mostly located in Texas—lost service to 4,500 meters, but was quickly restored. PHEC then sent crews to aid the others.

“PHEC was mostly restored within the first few days, and Claiborne was restored fairly soon afterward, but BECi and JDEC—each with more than 4,000 broken poles—have taken appreciably longer,” Addie says.

Providing Mutual Aid

Co-ops with few or no outages quickly became first responders

to their sister co-ops. Deployed through ALEC, crews headed to their assignments, buoyed by a statewide fund-raising program that collected donations of food, water and supplies to help affected areas.

Washington-St. Tammany Electric personnel were among the first on the scene at JDEC, arriving even before Tent City—erected to house line crews and other helpers—was ready.

“We sent in a crew of eight, but we already knew we had our work cut out for us,” says Kelton Breland, who had boots on the ground with his crew for 12 days as coordinator of crews for a substation. “Working 16-hour days is nothing unusual for our crews in these kinds of situations. The people who do this kind of work are a special breed with specific skills.”

DEMCO experienced brief outages, mostly from damage to right-of-ways. Once its service was back up, 28 employees and support equipment were sent west to BECi and JDEC.

“For Laura, we did something we never have,” says Mark Phillips, director of operations at DEMCO. “We sent warehousemen to assist with the influx of material being received, employees to assist with Tent City logistics and consumer reps to assist in an office environment. Due to the high demand of pole line hardware and transformers, we have offered up stock levels on-site at our vendor locations to assist with the needs at the other co-ops as well.”



Winds of up to 150 mph flattened buildings and caused widespread destruction, including at this home in Cameron Parish. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF DAVIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Power lines lean over a highway in Calcasieu Parish.
PHOTO BY CHERE COEN

In Houma, South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association prepared for the worst. Lines that serve remote camps and the lower part of Terrebonne Parish were de-energized.

“If we had not done this and there had been an electrical issue, we would not have been able to reach some of these areas because the floodgates had been closed,” says SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli. “Thank goodness flooding was almost nonexistent, and these lines were re-energized the day after Hurricane Laura made landfall.”

SLECA sent crews to help neighboring co-ops, rotating them out every seven days.

“We will continue to send crews to Beauregard as long as the need is there,” Joe says. “We live in Louisiana, and we are used to hurricanes and going to the aid of our sister co-ops.”

“Many of our employees have gone through Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, Isaac, Barry,

etc. These co-ops have come to our aid in previous storms. Our employees are eager to return the favor. They know what they are going through.”

Appreciative of the Help

When Laura reached Claiborne, 300 miles from where the storm made landfall, she was still a Category 1 hurricane, bringing four hours of sustained 70 to 90 mph winds. Typically, hurricanes are downgraded to tropical storms or tropical depressions that far north.

“We just don’t have hurricanes that hit our area,” says EmmaLee Tingle, communications and marketing specialist at Claiborne. “The eye hit our service territory nearly dead center. Several of our longtime employees told us they’d never seen damage like this.”

“We had staged several crews prior to the storm, but it was quickly obvious we needed more help—more hands, more

chainsaws, more buckets, more diggers, more material haulers.

“During the storm, we sat feeling helpless as we watched the numbers on the outage map grow. Before the wind stopped blowing, we had more help on the way from sister co-ops and contract companies. Before we reached final restoration, we had about 200 extra people helping in our effort. Without the help we received from our sister co-ops, our 10-day outage would have been weeks.”

“Co-op crews come in and work just like they were working for their own members. With crews from sister cooperatives, it’s not about a paycheck. It’s about people, and getting people restored as quickly as safely possible.”

Consumer-members appreciated the assistance and were quick to express gratitude.

“We really do serve the best membership,” EmmaLee says. “They showed up with

supplies, offered to feed crews, prayed over crews while working at residential services and showed kindness in true Southern hospitality.”

Kelton says a JDEC consumer-member named Toby fired up his wood smoker and fed the crew lunches.

“The first day he brought us beef tips, gravy and lima beans,” Kelton says. “The next day, he showed up with pork roast. Now, remember that he had no power, but he didn’t want all the food in his freezer to go to waste, so he brought it to us.”

Eric Gautreaux, JDEC director of safety, says his consumer-members have been incredible.

“Members of the community have been truly amazing, and very supportive of our linemen who have come here from within Louisiana and from nearly a dozen states across the country,” he says. “The people you serve can truly make a difference.” ■

Q&A

Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta

As Public Service Commissioner, Eric Skrmetta's primary objective has been to protect ratepayers and improve utility services for the people of Louisiana. Since being elected in 2008, Commissioner Skrmetta has been a leader on the Louisiana Public Service Commission, which has ushered in new power plants to build Louisiana's energy efficiency and independence, improved water systems, demanded transparency on consumer billing and saved ratepayers more than \$8 billion. In an interview with the commissioner, we learned his thoughts on serving in this important role.

Q. What would you say are your most significant achievements?

"I enjoy this responsibility. It is highly technical and complex in many ways, but the goals are simple. It is my job to get consumers the most reliable utility services at the best possible rate.

So, I would say my most significant achievement to date has been saving ratepayers billions of dollars. When I took office, we had the 26th highest residential utility rates in the nation. Through tough negotiating and forward-thinking management, I helped reduce rates to among the lowest in the country. Today, Louisiana's utility rates are about 30 percent below the national average.

How did that happen? Well, we negotiated rate credits where possible. We recovered energy use overcharges and returned the money to the ratepayers. We made sure our power plants were efficient, or they were retired. We negotiated rate hike freezes. We took advantage of the 2018 Tax Cuts and Job Benefits Act and ordered companies

to refund customers' savings from the legislation.

No one area led us to some of the lowest rates in the nation. It was working with companies and finding ways to reduce expenses and eliminate waste."

Q. Broadband expansion has become a hot topic. How will you play a role in expanding internet usage?

"I am a big proponent of expediting high-speed broadband expansion—especially into rural areas.

I am concerned that there is no legislation placing broadband expansion in the Louisiana Public Service Commission's jurisdiction. Currently, no state agency has jurisdiction over the subject matter. That is problematic. (Account No. 80249161001)

I believe high-speed broadband will spread more quickly if companies know where to go to find answers, provide solutions or just lend a helping hand. The Federal Communications Commission refers to broadband as a utility, and that would lead any logical mind to place jurisdiction of the industry in the hands of the regulators of utilities—the LPSC.

But recent legislation may have confused matters, opening the door to legal challenges that could be costly in terms of time and money. I will continue to advocate for and promote the need for high-speed broadband, and I will work to expand fiber-based and cellar broadband technology to encourage necessary expansion."

Q. You have been active in promoting industrial solar. Why?

"It is smart for us to diversify our energy portfolio. Louisiana does not have any wind



fields that can provide efficient energy.

Solar facilities are readily recognized as the closest economical renewable resource that may provide Louisiana with a renewable energy component in its overall energy mix. We are expanding industrial-scale solar."

Q. What goals do you have for your third term?

"I want to maintain our success in keeping our residential and industrial utility rates low.

I would like to take a lead role in accelerating high-speed broadband—especially into underserved rural areas.

I also want to eliminate sewer discharge into Lake Pontchartrain, which can be accomplished by developing a common pipeline that will run to the river.

I want to continue to diversify and upgrade our energy portfolio, and I believe there is opportunity for the LPSC to play a more significant role in some legislative matters."

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

3-Ply Disposable Face Masks Pack of 10 ★★★★★ (2768)

\$2.99 ~~\$4.99~~ **Save 40%**

NEW Less Than 30¢ per Mask

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

In-Store Only

Non-medical. ITEM 57593 58944257 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

McGRAW ★★★★★ (636)

8 Gallon, 150 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressor

\$119.99 ~~\$139.99~~ **Save \$39**

Compare to Husky 3006116 \$159

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 56269/64294-shown 58947777 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

WOW! SUPER COUPON

Grant's ★★★★★ (6504)

12" x 12" Microfiber Cleaning Cloths Pack of 4

\$69.99 ~~\$289~~ **Save 75%**

Compare to ProFibre AZCOAB \$5.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63358/63925 58948702 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF ANY SINGLE ITEM*

Use Online & In-Store

58941873

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift cards, open box items, 3 Day Parking Lot Sale Items, compressors, floor jacks, power stations, sales, storage cabinets, chests or carts, ballcaps, wireless, Adams J Amco, Altair, Moxon, Ebersole, General Machinery, Cobra CoverPro, Dayton's, Diamondback, Drummond, Eastpak, Fischer, Herbolite, Ikon Jupiter, Lynx, Poulson, Predator, Taligator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 12/20/20.

SUPER COUPON

PORTLAND ★★★★★ (6821)

1750 psi Electric Pressure Washer

\$79.99 ~~\$99.99~~ **Save \$94**

Compare to Briggs & Stratton 0205600 \$174.03

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63255/63254-shown 58957449 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

WARRIOR ★★★★★ (5213)

29 Piece Titanium Drill Bit Set

\$10.99 ~~\$18.99~~ **Save 81%**

Compare to Dewalt DW1369 \$60.09

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63089/62281 61637-shown 58958184 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

BRAUN ★★★★★ (9137)

5000 Lumen 4 ft. LED Hanging Shop Light

\$19.99 ~~\$29.99~~ **Save 33%**

Compare to ProFibre AZCOAB \$5.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64410 58961687 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR ★★★★★ (1630)

2000w Super Quiet Inverter Generator

\$449.99 ~~\$499.99~~ **Save \$99**

Compare to Honda HX2200ITA \$1,049

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 62523 58969828 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

COVERPRO ★★★★★ (1984)

10 ft. x 17 ft. Portable Garage

\$174.99 ~~\$199.99~~ **Save \$130**

Compare to Shelter Logic 76377 3305.29

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 62859/63055 62860-shown 58973059 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster ★★★★★ (6860)

18" x 12", 1000 lb. Capacity Hardwood Mover's Dolly

\$7.99 ~~\$10.99~~ **Save 62%**

Compare to Buffalo Tools HFDOLLY \$21.29

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 60497/61899/63095 63096/63097/63098-shown 58973417 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

CENTECH ★★★★★ (3709)

2/10/50 AMP, 12v Battery Charger and Engine Starter

\$34.99 ~~\$54.99~~ **Save 38%**

Compare to Schumacher Electric SE-1250 \$56.93

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 60581/2418 60653-shown 58974202 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster ★★★★★ (6276)

72" x 80" Moving Blanket

\$5.99 ~~\$9.99~~ **Save 70%**

Compare to Blue Hawk 77280 \$19.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 65605 62418/64337-shown 58976470 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH ★★★★★ (4080)

130 Piece Tool Kit with Case **LIFETIME WARRANTY** **SAE AND METRIC**

\$29.99 ~~\$99.99~~ **Save 60%**

Compare to Anvil A137HDS \$75.88

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64263/68998 63248/64080 63091-shown 58978994 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 ★★★★★ (1379)

"#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA"

Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Low Profile Floor Jack

\$104.99 ~~\$114.99~~ **Save \$85**

Compare to TED Correct T8300182 \$169.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 56618/56619 56620/56617-shown 58983397 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

luminar OUTDOOR ★★★★★ (6686)

250 Lumen Pop-Up Lantern

\$4.99 ~~\$5.99~~ **Save 66%**

Compare to Go Green Power GG-113-30LPOP \$14.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64110 58984540 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL ★★★★★ (1757)

30", 5 Drawer Mechanic's Cart

\$199.99 ~~\$239.99~~ **Save \$630**

YOUR CHOICE OF 7 COLORS

Compare to Snap-on Blue-Point KRC610BPES \$830

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 64030, 64722, 64031, 64071, 64061, 64720, 56429 58991759 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR ★★★★★ (3761)

6.5 HP (212 cc) OHV Horizontal Shaft Gas Engine

\$99.99 ~~\$124.99~~ **Save \$230**

Compare to Honda GX200UT20X2 \$329.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 60363/69730-shown 68121/69727 CALIFORNIA ONLY 58991919 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster ★★★★★ (5640)

4 Piece, 1" x 15 ft. Ratcheting Tie Downs

\$6.99 ~~\$12.49~~ **Save 68%**

Compare to Keeper 05505 \$22.51

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63056/61524 63057/63150/56648 63094-shown 5900238 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

WARRIOR ★★★★★ (4436)

3 Piece Hex Shank Socket Driver Set

\$2.99 ~~\$4.99~~ **Save 80%**

Compare to Dewalt DWAZ240IR \$14.98

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63909/63928 68513-shown 59002866 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/20/20

SUPER COUPON

FRANKLIN ★★★★★ (4366)

17 ft. Type IA 300 lb. Capacity Multi-Task Ladder

\$109.99 ~~\$139.99~~ **Save \$220**

Compare to Little Giant XE M17 \$329.99

Use Online & In-Store

ITEM 63419/67646 62514/62418/63417-shown 59003222 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/20/20

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 12/20/20.

Pricing, promotions, and availability may vary by location and at www.harborfreight.com and are subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Compare to advertised price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. Although we make every effort to assure that our prices and products are advertised as accurately as possible, we are only human and in the event an error is made, we reserve the right to correct it.



A Day in the Life of Tent City

By Cheré Coen

It wasn't long after Hurricane Laura roared into Calcasieu Parish—making landfall on August 27 as a Category 4 storm, with winds reaching up to 150 mph—that plans to create tent cities in Lake Charles and outside DeRidder were put into motion.

Massive tents had to be erected to house and feed hundreds of local and visiting crews arriving to help restore power to consumer-members of Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative and Beauregard Electric Cooperative.

Catering companies had to be hired and parking lots

arranged for all of the incoming trucks. Crews also needed portable bathrooms and showers.

A complicating factor was the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was our worst nightmare—recovering from a hurricane in a pandemic—and it came true,” says Addie Armato, director of membership engagement for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, who assisted the JDEC team.

Lake Charles accommodated 700 at its facility. Instead of one tent to house 500 men, two were needed to adequately space crew members at 50% capacity. Dining tables had to be spread out, per Louisiana's COVID-19 mandates. Masks were

encouraged, but not required. BECi housed 1,200 workers.

The organization and operation of these tent cities ran like well-oiled machines.

JDEC Safety Coordinator Eric Gautreaux—who earned the nickname “Mayor of Tent City”—coordinated Lake Charles along with ALEC and fellow JDEC employees.

Kevin Reeves, who oversaw BECi's tent city after Hurricane Rita in 2005, ran restoration efforts in DeRidder.

Management of a tent city requires many working parts.

Before the sun rises, the working day begins. In Lake Charles, the catering company begins serving breakfast at

4:30 a.m., crafted from an 18-wheeler converted into a portable kitchen.

Crew members usually start the day around 5 a.m. with breakfast, crew meetings and fueling utility trucks. Employees also use this time to acquire materials from the yard and warehouse, and pick up ice, water and boxed lunches for the day in the field.

For those who need laundry cleaned, clothes are dropped off at a special trailer. Crew members leave their dirty laundry in a labeled bag and employees do the rest.

“Drop off in the morning, pick up in the afternoon,” Eric says of the quick turnaround.



At 6 a.m., crews attend a morning prayer and head out. “We release them and they all leave staggered because they all have different jobs in different areas,” Eric explains.

At the BECi tent city, where parking spots are at a minimum, trucks gear up in a massive line around dawn and leave the property all at once.

Utility crews travel to all corners of the JDEC and BECi service areas.

Bird dogs—local co-op staff members—scout out locations needing restoration. Management teams at both tent city and co-op offices field customer calls and forward

information to crews.

Mapping systems track remaining outages and where linemen are working.

The Lord’s Prayer is written on a chalkboard in the Lake Charles Tent City trailer office.

“There’s a lot that goes on throughout the day,” Eric says of the hours between when crews leave and return.

After 16-hour workdays, crews come back to tent city. They park their trucks and offload equipment, then report to crew leaders on their day’s work. They shower, pick up their freshly cleaned clothes, eat dinner and rest.

Eric says he calculated he

needed five trailers with eight showers each to accommodate 800 men showering within a three-hour window.

After showers, dinner and downtime, the housing tents fill up for the night.

In addition to housing a workforce made up of mostly men, this year’s BECi recovery efforts included two women.

“We try to accommodate them somewhere where they feel comfortable,” Kevin says. “One of the women insisted on staying with her crew.”

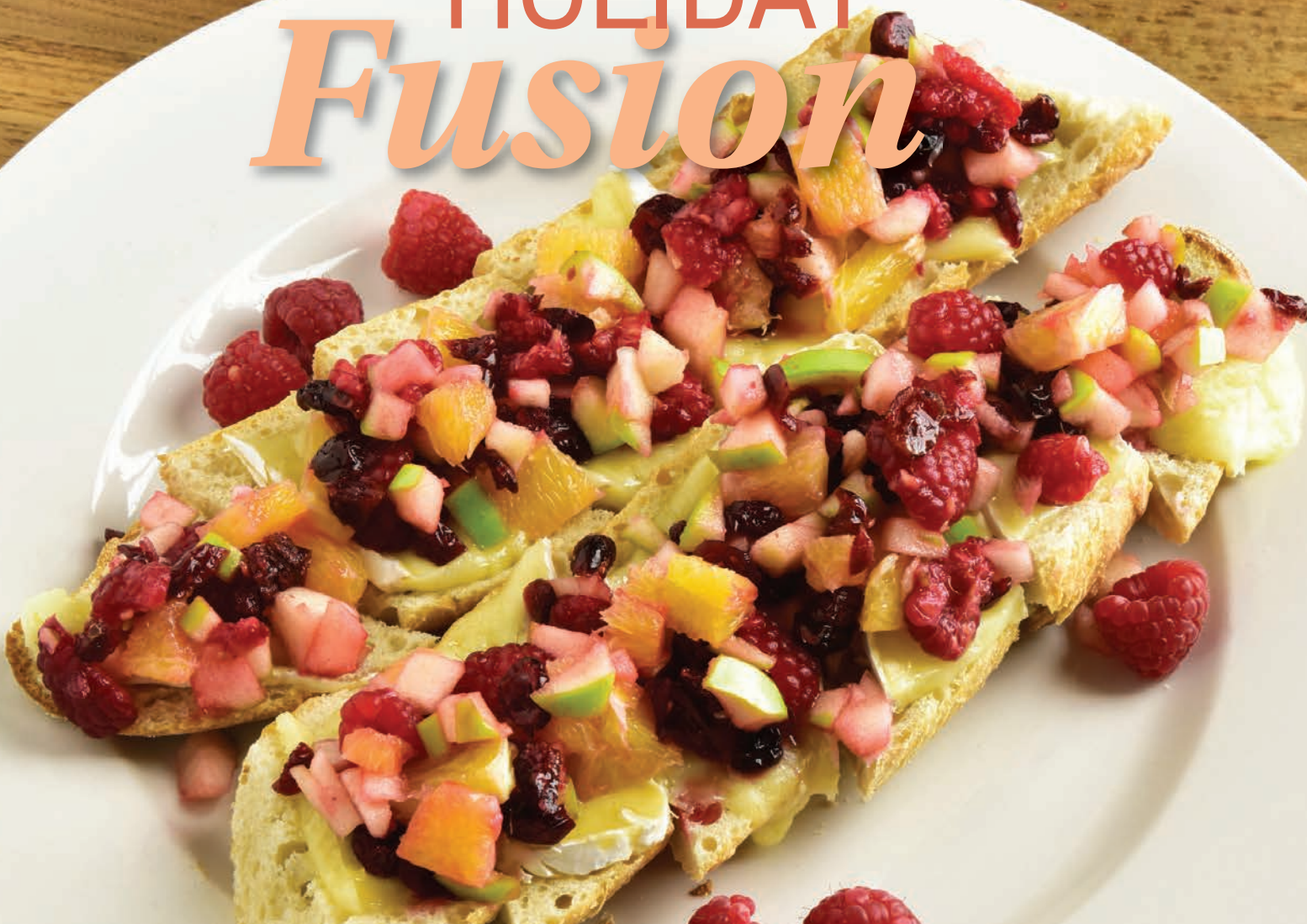
After hopefully a good night’s rest, the day begins anew—“and then we start all over again,” Eric says. ■

AT TOP: Tents and tightly grouped trucks stretch across a vast area in DeRidder. PHOTO BY DRONE COWBOY LLC

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Line crew members check the restoration map before heading out. The food crew in DeRidder mugs for the camera. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BECI STAFF

OPPOSITE PAGE: Personal belongings are stored under cots, which are grouped together by crew at the Lake Charles Tent City. PHOTO BY CHERE COEN

HOLIDAY *Fusion*



Brie Baguettes With Berry Apple Relish

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 tablespoon butter | 2 tablespoons olive oil |
| 1 green apple, chopped into 1-inch chunks | Sea salt and black pepper, to taste |
| ½ cup dried cranberries | 1 baguette, sliced lengthwise and cut into
1½-inch diagonal pieces |
| ¼ cup pine nuts, lightly toasted in a frying pan | 8 ounces brie, thinly sliced |
| 1 pint fresh raspberries | |
| 1 small orange, peeled and chopped into chunks | |

In a small saucepan, combine the butter, apple, cranberries and pine nuts. Gently sauté until apples are slightly tender and caramelized. Remove from heat and let cool for 5 minutes. Add the raspberries, orange, oil, salt and pepper. Mix gently.

Place baguette slices open-face up on a large cookie sheet. Lay the brie slices over the bread, covering evenly. Broil the baguette slices on high until the cheese melts, about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Generously top with the fruit relish. Serve immediately.

Serves 4

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

PHOTO BY DAN GLANZ

Add fresh flair to old favorites, from turkey with a twist to curried stuffing

Turkey With a Southwest Twist

10-pound whole turkey, thawed	¾ teaspoon red chili powder
6 sprigs of fresh tarragon	1 teaspoon cumin
2 limes, sliced into rounds	3 cloves garlic, crushed
3 fresh sage leaves	2 pickled or canned chipotle peppers, minced
1 cup ghee or butter	½ cup toasted pine nuts

Gently separate the turkey skin from the breast, just enough to slide the tarragon sprigs, lime and sage leaves under the skin. Place the turkey in a shallow roasting pan.

Melt the butter or ghee in a small saucepan with spices. Brush the turkey with the butter-spice mixture. Pat crushed garlic on top of the turkey and into creases. Place an oven-proof meat thermometer into the thick thigh of the turkey, ensuring the thermometer is not touching bone.

Roast the turkey at 350 F for 3 to 4 hours, basting occasionally with the remaining ghee or butter and spice mixture. After 2 hours of roasting, cover turkey with foil, ensuring foil does not touch the turkey. Finish roasting until the thermometer reads 165 F and drumsticks feel loose.

Let sit for 15 minutes. Carve and garnish with pine nuts and peppers.

Serves 6 to 8

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Spicy Southwest Scalloped Taters

3 medium red potatoes	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup queso fresco, crumbled	1 teaspoon cumin powder
2 tablespoons butter	¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon sweet yellow onion, finely chopped	Dash cayenne pepper
1 garlic clove, minced	1¼ cup whole milk or oat milk
1 jalapeño pepper, finely chopped	1 tablespoon honey
2 tablespoons white flour	Roasted jalapeño slices

Heat oven to 350 F.

Oil a 9-by-13 baking dish. Peel potatoes and slice thinly. Place a thick layer of potatoes over the bottom of the dish. Add an even layer of cheese. Layer remaining potato slices on top.

In a medium saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add onion, garlic and peppers. Stir gently for about 5 minutes. Add flour, stirring continuously, until the mixture is smooth. Add the seasonings and stir to combine. Add the milk. Cook for an additional 5 to 7 minutes, stirring continuously until the sauce becomes noticeably thicker. Remove from heat.

Pour the sauce over the potatoes. Bake, uncovered, for about one hour, until potatoes are tender. Remove from heat and drizzle the honey over the top. Garnish with jalapeño slices.

Serves 4

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Sweet Potato Latkes With Applesauce

2 golden delicious (or similar) apples, peeled and cubed	½ teaspoon cardamom
2 teaspoons honey, divided	¼ cup flour
Dash of cinnamon	1 egg, beaten
Dash of salt	½ teaspoon salt
10 ounces sweet potatoes, peeled and grated	⅓ cup vegetable oil
	8 ounces sour cream

Place the apples in a small saucepan. Add cinnamon, dash of salt and half the honey. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the saucepan. Cook on medium-low heat, covered, until the apple chunks become soft and mushy. Add more water as needed to prevent burning. Apples should resemble a chunky sauce. This process should take at least 30 minutes.

Mix the sweet potatoes, cardamom, flour, egg and ½ teaspoon salt. Heat the oil in a large skillet over high heat until oil glazes over and is hot. Turn heat to medium-low. Add ⅛ to ¼ cup spoonfuls of the potato mixture to the pan, patting gently with a slotted spatula to flatten. Cook about 2 to 3 minutes per side, until golden brown. Remove from heat. Drain excess oil using a rack or paper towels.

Serve hot with applesauce and sour cream.

Serves 4

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Curry Stuffing

Small loaf white bread, preferably slightly crusty	½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon butter or ghee	1 teaspoon curry
¼ teaspoon vegetable oil	1 stalk celery, finely chopped
½ teaspoon Ras el Hanout seasoning (blend of nutmeg, salt, pepper, ginger, cardamom, mace, cinnamon, turmeric, allspice and saffron)	½ yellow onion, diced
	1 Roma tomato, diced
	½ teaspoon salt
	1 tablespoon honey
	¼ cup turkey or chicken broth

Heat oven to 350 F.

Slice bread into ½-inch cubes, to yield approximately 2 to 3 cups. Spread the cubes on a baking tray in a single layer.

Combine butter and oil in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat. Add all spices and simmer for 1 minute. Add the celery and onion. Cook for 5 minutes until celery and onions soften. Add tomatoes, salt and honey. Cook for 5 minutes.

Add the bread cubes to the saucepan, stirring until the cubes are evenly coated with the butter mixture. Remove from heat. Pour the broth over the stuffing mixture.

Scrape the stuffing out of the saucepan and into a well-greased baking dish. Cover and bake for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake for 10 minutes, until the top of the stuffing is crispy and golden.

Serves 4

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

St. Jude patient **Braxton**,
brain cancer
pictured with his mom



Braxton's family didn't stop – **we won't stop.**

After learning he had an extremely rare brain cancer, choroid plexus carcinoma, Braxton and his mother, Nadine, made the journey from California to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.® "You cannot express how amazing St. Jude is. You can realize it once you get here, but you can't explain it in words," said his mom. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food—because all they should worry about is helping their child live.

Learn more at [stjude.org](https://www.stjude.org)



*Not all heroes
wear capes.*



Every nine minutes, the American Red Cross brings help and hope to people in need. Every dollar you give helps us do more of what we do.

Be a hero. Donate today.

Donate at [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)



**American
Red Cross**

HURRICANE RECOVERY

BY THE NUMBERS, HURRICANE LAURA

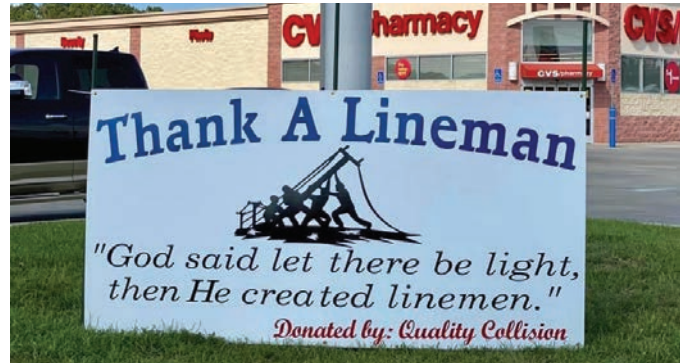
	Meters Out	% Out	% Restored on Oct. 8	Personnel Count
BECi	42,899	100%	100%	1,200
Claiborne	23,028	98%	100%	253
JDEC	11,098	100%	75%	700+
PHEMC	4,500	22%	100%	21

Mutual-aid states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

BY THE NUMBERS, HURRICANE DELTA

	Meters Out	% Out	Personnel Count
BECi	42,899	100%	700+
Claiborne	5,000	21%	47
DEMCO	41,688	37%	340+
JDEC	11,098	100%	700+
SLECA	Both had outages, but were able to restore power within the first 24 hours of the storm making landfall.		
WSTE			

Mutual-aid states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.





2021
ESSAY
CONTEST

DEMCO IS COMMITTED TO
OUR COMMUNITY.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS
CAN ENTER THE 2021 RURAL
ELECTRIC YOUTH
TOUR ESSAY CONTEST.
WINNERS WILL RECEIVE AN
ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.!!
ENTRIES DUE BY JANUARY 22.
FOR RULES AND INFORMATION VISIT DEMCO.ORG



DEMCO

A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

 /DEMCOLouisiana

Lucky Account Number Contest

Four lucky co-op members will win \$25! Your account number is listed on your mailing label, but to win you must also find it in the pages of the magazine. If you find it, call 225-262-2160 to claim your prize.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Along these Lines
2. Publication Number: 4089-
3. Filing Date: September 29, 2020
4. Issue Frequency: Bimonthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$1.51
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc. (ALEC) 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4299
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Jeff Arnold, 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4299
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

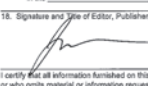
Along these Lines		July/August 2020	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		90,878	92,208
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	90,757	92,051
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	102	150
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		90,859	92,201
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		90,859	92,201
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		16	7
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		90,875	92,208
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100	100

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

	average no. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	no. copies or single issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		

I certify that 60% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Nov/Dec 2020 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:  Date: 9/29/2020

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Offices Closed

Thanksgiving Thursday, Nov. 26
Friday, Nov. 27

Christmas Thursday, Dec. 24
Friday, Dec. 25

New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1

Wounded Warrior Project gives veterans hope.

I AM LIVING PROOF

WOUNDED WARRIOR
JASON EHRHART



SUPPORT WOUNDED VETERANS AT

iamlivingproofwwp.org



WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROJECT

PICTURE A CHILD STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER. WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE? DO YOU IMAGINE A CERTAIN AGE, ETHNICITY OR PART OF THE COUNTRY? TRUTH IS CHILD HUNGER CAN BE HARD TO RECOGNIZE. BECAUSE THE 1 IN 7 AMERICAN KIDS FACING IT CAN LOOK LIKE ANYONE, ESPECIALLY ME. I WAS CREATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM PHOTOS OF THE 11 MILLION KIDS STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER IN THIS COUNTRY. A FACE THAT CHALLENGES YOU TO SEE HUNGER IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. I AM WHAT HUNGER LOOKS LIKE IN AMERICA. LEARN MORE AT IAMHUNGERINAMERICA.ORG

FEEDING
AMERICA

200 FOOD
BANKS
STRONG

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Ten hurricanes make U.S. landfall in 2020: impacts felt in Louisiana

By Cheré Coen

David Latona joined DEMCO as the manager of member and public relations five weeks before Hurricane Gustav arrived in 2008. At the time, Gustav was the most devastating natural disaster to strike the Greater Baton Rouge area. Almost all members in the DEMCO service area—99%—were left without power.

Immediately, DEMCO went into emergency mode, outlining an action plan to get members back online. But they weren't alone. Help came from across the nation, with crews arriving from sister cooperatives as far away as Wyoming to help restore power to 95,000 meters.

During the past two months, DEMCO has been on the giving and receiving end of mutual aid.

When Hurricane Laura made landfall in southwest Louisiana August 27, DEMCO was ready to respond. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is a founding principle of all 903 co-ops across the nation. DEMCO sent crews to both Jeff Davis Electric in Jennings and at their tent city in Lake Charles, and Beauregard Electric's two tent cities outside DeRidder.

"We understand what's going on because we've been in the same place," David says.

Warehousemen Jason Ballard and Patrick Donohue arrived at the JDEC Jennings office the day after the storm. Member Services Representatives Ashley Carradine and Tiffany Dunn soon followed, helping with billing and district and control center duties from dawn to dusk. A second wave of crews and member service representatives also reported for duty and will continue to help as long as needed.

A 13-man crew arrived at Beauregard Electric August 29 as Laura disintegrated into a remnant low over Kentucky, but rains and wind still plagued Louisiana. By August 31, DEMCO had increased its contribution to BECi to six crew leaders, plus three additional employees to help with management of the tent cities.

"Louisiana has a very strong co-op network (the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives) that helps to assess, organize and direct the mutual-aid needs of the co-ops in our state," says Josh Conley, DEMCO district line supervisor. (Account No. 80197302002)

"Through our meetings and interactions—usually over a pot of boiled



TOP: Headed to assist Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative, are, from left, Patrick Donohue, Craton Templeton, Carl Watts, Cody Glascock, Brandon Simon, Josh Miller and Josh Conley.

BOTTOM: Headed to assist Beauregard Electric Cooperative are, from left, Lee Guillot, Michael Doughty, Maderis Trout, Jeremy Jett, Derrick Willis, Roman Lee, Justin Milton, Caleb Wilkinson, Bodhi Wright, Jamie Coats, Jimmy Holden, Josh Prestridge, George Fage, Danny Delatte, Louis Lee, Melvin Parker, Johnathan Crowder and Rickey Cummings.

crawfish, shrimp or crabs—we have developed a special working relationship that goes beyond the dollars and cents bottom lines of the utility industry. That is why when Jeff Davis Electric found itself in need of additional personnel to lead and manage their hundreds of additional personnel, they were able to reach out to DEMCO and trust that the team of bird dogs—a co-op term for a manager of crews—that they sent could be trusted with the rebuilding of their system. Our co-op families will continue to work together through the storms to ensure that no one is left behind without electricity.”

Josh likens the cooperation between Louisiana co-ops to the old-fashioned barn raisings, where neighbors gathered together when additional help was needed on the farm.

“It is so important that we assist our fellow co-ops,” says DEMCO Director of Operations Mark Phillips. “Their members are just as important as ours. We all share something in common: providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. You never know with the uncertainty of a hurricane. The shoe could easily be on the other foot.” (Account No. 80236662004)

DEMCO CEO and General Manager Randy Pierce sees the exchange of help between cooperatives as a vital aspect of providing reliable service to DEMCO members.

“We are always grateful for Cooperation Among Cooperatives when we’ve needed help from storm relief crews, and we are always ready to assist whenever we can,” Randy says. “I want to thank our people who are responding to our fellow co-ops in need. Our friends and their members will be forever grateful for all you do to help them.”

“We are all brothers and sisters, united by the common ground of providing electricity to our communities, families, and in many cases our own homes,” reiterates Josh.

Since June, ten hurricanes have made landfall in the United States, and two have hard-hit Louisiana co-ops.

Although Cristobal, Marco, Laura and Sally dodged DEMCO’s service



FROM TOP: Crews from across the country return after a long day restoring power. This is one of two tent cities Beaugard Electric Cooperative set up outside DeRidder.

DEMCO’s Ashley Carradine and Tiffany Dunn worked in the Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative office in Jennings.

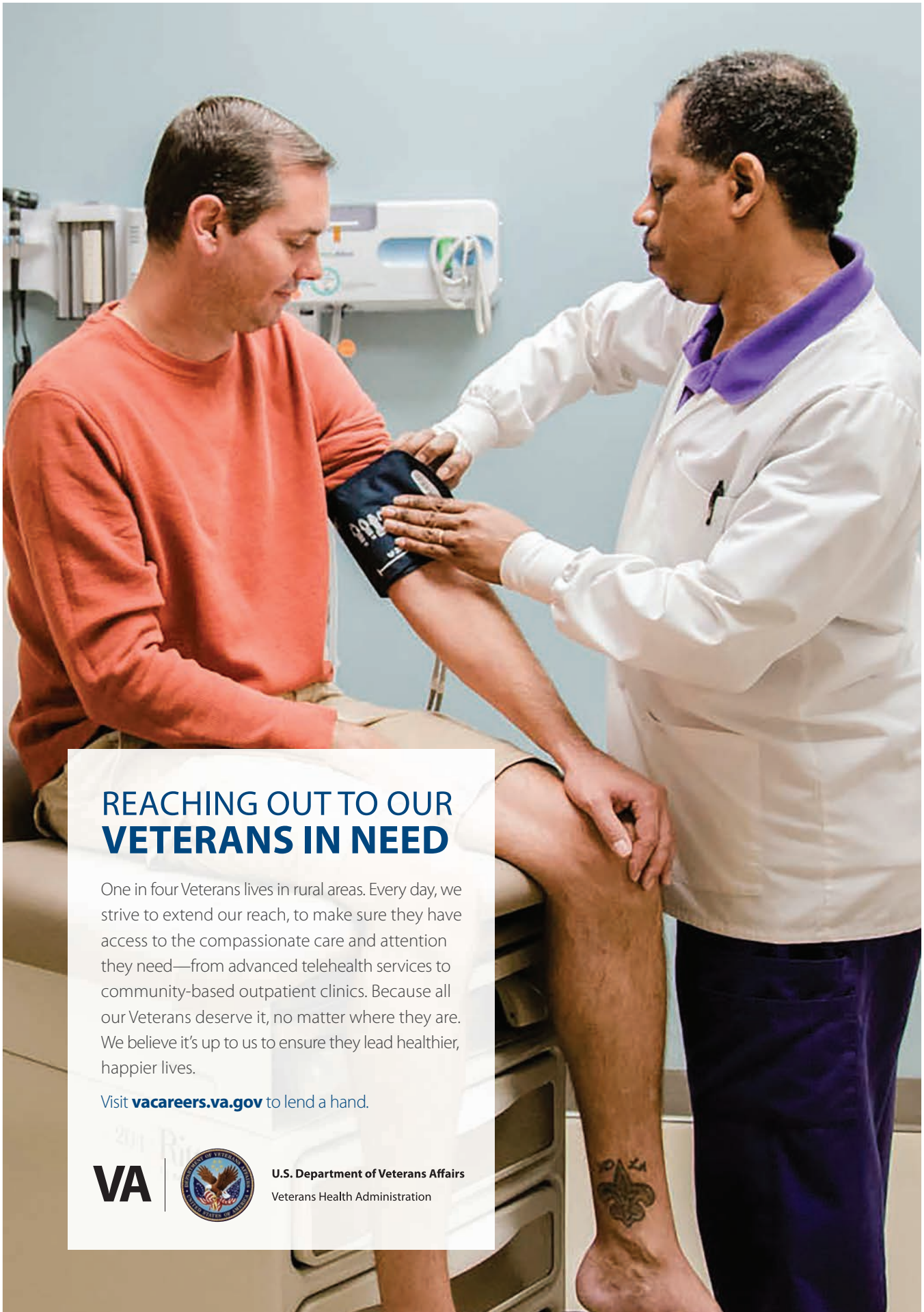
areas, October 9 brought Delta—one of the worst weather events to impact the DEMCO system since Hurricane Gustav and the Flood of 2016.

Delta-related outages peaked at almost 42,000 early Saturday morning,



ABOVE: DEMCO crews and contractors work to restore power to consumer-members following Hurricane Delta.

but by Monday mid-day, 36,000 meters were restored. A workforce of 250 worked around the clock to repair a total of 169 broken poles and 407 lines across the 8,700 miles-span of distribution line. ■



REACHING OUT TO OUR VETERANS IN NEED

One in four Veterans lives in rural areas. Every day, we strive to extend our reach, to make sure they have access to the compassionate care and attention they need—from advanced telehealth services to community-based outpatient clinics. Because all our Veterans deserve it, no matter where they are. We believe it's up to us to ensure they lead healthier, happier lives.

Visit vacareers.va.gov to lend a hand.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration



shelter

is the foundation for a family's strength and stability.

Learn more at habitat.org

Culotta Insurance & Investments
Serving Miss-Lou STATEWIDE Since 1992
1-844-AGENT4U
FIXED INDEXED ANNUITIES
MORE GAINS • NO LOSSES • SAFETY
 Up to 10% IMMEDIATE INTEREST BONUS on Deposits ROLLOVER CD OR 401K TODAY!
FINANCIAL FREEDOM
 SAFE RETIREMENT STRATEGIES, MEDICARE SUPPS, LONG-TERM CARE, MEDICAL & LIFE

Richie Culotta • Cameron Culotta • Zach Dustin

ASSESSING HOUSING OPTIONS

UNDERSTANDING BENEFITS

Find articles, tips and tools from experts and others who have been in your place.

aarp.org/caregiving
 Caregiving Resource Center
 Care for your loved one. Care for yourself.

Ad Council

AARP
Real Possibilities

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$59.99 month for TV
+ Internet
2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

~~\$59.99~~ month for Internet
\$40 per month for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$5 off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet/hughesnet.

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

iSe Habla Español!

1-866-290-7151
 Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish
 Authorized Retailer

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.

Plus More!

FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX | **- Fully Integrated -**
 Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
 Qualification: Advertisized price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 1/13/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2020 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.