Youth Tour delegates return from Washington adventure

Local delegates shown visiting the Supreme Court Building include Rain Scott-Catoire, Joseph Howard, Megan Dedon, Lisa Taylor (all sponsored by DEMCO) and Brook Wascom, sponsored by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.
Manager’s Report
By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Washington Youth Tour Program builds leaders of tomorrow

At DEMCO, we take our commitment to support the education of our youth very seriously.

Whether it is scholarships, safety demonstrations, uniforms or sponsorship of schools and school-related activities, we feel it is important that today’s students are adequately prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow.

But sometimes the educational process requires getting out of the classroom.

That’s what this year’s Youth Tour delegates did last month when they traveled to Washington, D.C., with a group of other outstanding students from throughout the state.

Our contingent from Louisiana made the trip to Washington where they joined more than 1,500 other students for the annual Washington Youth Tour rally.

DEMCO delegates Megan Dedon, Joseph Howard, Rain Scott-Catoire, and Lisa Taylor experienced the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. with a group of other outstanding students from throughout the state. They made new friendships and learned about the history, mission and future prospects of the electric cooperative movement.

Your locally-owned cooperative has been supporting this program for decades because we believe it is imperative that high school students learn about how government works and how the political system functions.

Personally, I believe it is important for youngsters to gain insight into the historical perspective that led to our present-day political environment and how political power impacts the formulation of laws and policies that directly affect not only the lives of others but their own lives as well.

While in Washington, our delegates toured Capitol Hill and engaged in personal conversations right there on the Capitol steps with their own Representatives and Senators from Louisiana. We always appreciate our federal lawmakers taking time out of their busy schedules to visit with our Youth Tour delegates and demonstrate that they also acknowledge a need to support these young people in their educational endeavors.

The students also watched history come alive while exploring the many museums, memorials and monuments that D.C. has to offer. They visited the Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery, the Vietnam Wall, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Martin Luther King Memorial, among many others.

The Washington Youth Tour is a program that we are proud to continue supporting, boasting over 50,000 participants since the event was founded over 50 years ago. The students gained a personal understanding of American history, what it means to be an American citizen and the key role that electric cooperatives play in their communities back home.

Inevitably, many of our Youth Tour students go on to accomplish great things in their lives and their career development, becoming doctors, attorneys, engineers, business owners and even political leaders striving to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour program when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and future president declared, “If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

And we are proud that we can do our part to help our leaders of tomorrow understand that we are all extremely blessed and privileged to live in the greatest country on earth.

Best of luck to our Youth Tour delegates as they apply what they have learned and move forward along their chosen paths and their individual pursuits.
Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience?

A typical American family spends nearly $2,000 per year on home energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Much of that money is wasted via leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several ways to save energy without a huge commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home—and you won’t have to hire a specialist to help.

Where To Start - Improving the “envelope” of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations over the years can loosen up any home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and ductwork can spring leaks. By weatherstripping and caulking around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating during colder months.

Sealing gaps around ductwork, piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency.

Apply weatherstripping around overlooked spaces such as your attic hatch or pull-down stairs, too.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs is a fast way to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LEDs have an estimated operational life span of 10,000–20,000 hours, compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. By replacing your home’s five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the Energy Star rating, you can save $75 a year, according to the DOE.

Wrapping Up Savings - Installing a blanket around your water heater could save you about 7–16 percent in water heating costs. For an investment of about $30, you can purchase precut jackets or blankets and install them in about an hour.

A safety note: The DOE recommends that you set the thermostat no higher than 130 degrees on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket because a higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to over-heat. (Acct. No. 4042005-001)

Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure that your home’s HVAC system is performing at an optimal level. A simple task like changing or cleaning the filters in your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. But if they aren’t changed or cleaned regularly, dust and dirt trapped in a system’s air filter lead to problems, including reduced airflow in the home; up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and even costly duct cleaning or replacement.

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Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning or changing the filters monthly.

Take Control of Your Energy Savings - Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule?

This energy-saving tool enables you to fine-tune the temperature for particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules. Most come with an override option so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed.

Keep-Cool Strategies for Summer

Saving money on air-conditioning bills is more likely to happen if you have a plan. Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. Here are five tips:

1. Get a qualified service technician to give the once-over to your central air-conditioning system and any window units you might have. A well-tuned air conditioner will operate in the most energy-efficient way.

2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you’re home, and higher before you leave the house. If you have a programmable thermostat, it can set itself.

3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. A ceiling fan moves the air around so anyone in the room feels cooler. There’s no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.

4. Close your drapes or blinds to block the heat when it’s sunny outside, but leave them open on cloudy days to get some natural daylight into your rooms.

5. Avoid cooking inside on hot summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order takeout or heat food up in the microwave.
DEMCO sponsored four local students as part of the 53rd Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Representing DEMCO were Rain Scott-Catoire, Megan Dedon, Lisa Taylor and Joseph Howard. Also participating in the program was Greenwell Springs resident Brook Wascom, sponsored by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC).

Chanon Johnson, DEMCO Foundation coordinator, also served as a chaperone on the trip.

Since DEMCO began participating in the annual Youth Tour program, dozens of local students have benefited from what has often been described as a “life changing” experience.

For their trip to Washington, the local students joined a group of 28 other students and chaperones from electric cooperatives across the state and ALEC in Baton Rouge.

Howard was selected by his Louisiana peers to represent the state on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Leadership Council (YLC). As the YLC representative for 2017, Howard will become involved in additional leadership and government training. (Acct. No. 80283793-001)

During the week-long Youth Tour, the students learned about electric co-ops, visited Capitol Hill and had the unique chance to act as lobbyists and voice their concerns and pose their questions directly to lawmakers.

While in Washington, the students joined more than 1,800 others from 37 states for the annual program.

“The purpose of this worthwhile program is to give local students a chance to develop leadership skills, learn how electric cooperatives work, see our government in action and tour Washington, D.C.,” said DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic. “We’re happy that these local students had a great time in Washington and that the cooperative could make this once-in-a-lifetime event possible for them. I know they learned a lot and represented Louisiana well.”

DEMCO’s Youth Tour Coordinator David Latona said the cooperative is proud to continue supporting the worthwhile program that builds leadership skills and enriches the lives of each participant.

“Working with these young people is a real joy, to see them experiencing an important part of our national history and heritage for the first time and to know that something we are doing is making a difference in their lives,” he said.

During the week-long Youth Tour, the students learned about electric co-ops, visited Capitol Hill to meet Louisiana Senators and Representatives and had the unique chance to act as lobbyists and voice their concerns and pose their questions directly to lawmakers.

Students also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museum complex, Mount Vernon and the Newseum.

In addition to taking in the many sights and sounds of the nation’s capital, all the various groups from participating states convened for National Youth Day on June 12 to hear from public figures and other inspirational speakers.

During their trip, the Louisiana students also visited the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Martin Luther King Memorial.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour was inspired in 1957 by Senator and future President Lyndon B. Johnson. During an address to NRECA members, he urged attendees to send young people to the nation’s capital so they could see first-hand how the government works.

NRECA is the national service organization representing more than 900 private, not-for-profit consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Each year, DEMCO covers all expenses to send delegates to the tour. In personal, hand-written notes sent from the nation’s capital, all the Youth Tour winners expressed their thanks.

To view a YouTube video of the trip, visit https://youtu.be/IM7HucCyyHU.
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Why is my summer electricity bill so high?

If your electric bill seems higher than it used to be, it’s time to investigate.

1. Check your history. First, verify that the bill truly is higher. Call your electric cooperative to ask for a review of your bills over the past year. You might be surprised to see how much your usage fluctuates depending on the season.

2. Check the weather. Fluctuations in outdoor temperatures can lead your family to crank up the air conditioning on especially hot days. Most people with air conditioning use more electricity during the hottest summer months than at any other time of the year.

3. Check what’s plugged in. If you thought your bill would be lower during a month when your family was on vacation, you might be surprised to realize that your appliances still use substantial electricity when the house is empty. Your refrigerator, landscape irrigator and well pump, for instance, keep running while you’re gone unless you have unplugged them. In fact, any appliance plugged into the wall uses electricity, whether or not anybody is home to use them.

4. Check your equipment. As appliances such as refrigerators and water heaters age, they become less efficient. If your air-conditioning and heating system or another large appliance is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

5. Check your lifestyle. If your college-age child is home for the summer, your electric bill will be a bit higher than it was while he or she was away. If your grandkids are enjoying their vacation at your house, your bill could go up. If you’ve had houseguests, you’ve used more electricity. If you’ve added a major appliance, such as a pool with a pump, a hot tub or even an oversized TV, that has affected your electric bill, too.

6. Don’t rely on your neighbors. No two families use electricity in exactly the same way, so if you believe your bill is too high because your neighbor’s is lower, you’re probably not making an even comparison. The better comparison is between your use of electricity now compared with the same time last year. (Acct. No. 5715901-001)

If you still think your bill is higher than it should be, contact DEMCO for help figuring it out.
**Tips for dealing with downed power lines**

Nearly everyone knows not to touch a downed power line, but you might not know that you do not have to touch a power line to be in danger.

High-voltage electricity can jump to anyone who gets too close. Anytime you’re working or playing outside, stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and their connections. Look up before raising a ladder or pole, and use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors.

Avoid using metal ladders because they conduct electricity.

**Downed Power Line Safety Tips**

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines - up to 35 feet - can be energized.
- You cannot tell whether a power line is energized just by looking at it. Assume that all downed power lines are live.
- The proper way to move away from the power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for an electric shock.
- 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 for help.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials such as wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Do not touch or step in water near a downed power line.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the vehicle. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away.
- If you must leave your vehicle because it is on fire, jump out with both feet together and avoid contact with both the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

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**Seal your air ducts to save some dough this summer**

In houses with forced air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house.

In a typical house, however, 20–30 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost through leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts.

The result is a higher utility bill and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set.

How do you know that your home has poorly performing ducts?

- You have high summer and winter utility bills.
- You have rooms that are difficult to heat and cool.
- You have stuffy rooms that never seem to feel comfortable.
- Your ducts run through an attic, crawl space or garage.
- You find tangled or kinked flexible ducts in your system.

A duct system that is well designed and properly sealed can make your home more comfortable, energy efficient and safe.

Because ducts are usually concealed behind walls, floors or ceilings, repairing them can be difficult, but there are worthwhile improvements you can make.

Some homeowners choose to take on duct sealing as a do-it-yourself project. Start by sealing air leaks using mastic sealant or metal tape and insulating all the ducts that you can access. Despite its name, never use duct tape because it is not long-lasting.

Also, make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well sealed where they meet the floors, walls and ceiling. These are common places to find leaks and disconnected ductwork.

Many homeowners choose to work with a professional contractor for duct improvement projects. Most heating and cooling equipment contractors also repair ductwork.

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**Keep Food Safe**

**Before, During and After a Power Outage**

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It’s important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before power outage</th>
<th>During power outage</th>
<th>After power outage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!</td>
<td>Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed!</td>
<td>Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep refrigerator at 40° or below. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won’t use immediately. Keep freezer set to 0° or below. Group frozen foods to help keep items stay colder longer.</td>
<td>If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:</td>
<td>If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A full freezer will hold its temperature for 48 hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.</td>
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**Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:**

- Meat, poultry or seafood products
- Milk, yogurt and other dairy products
- Cooked or sliced produce
- Eggs and egg products
- Soft and shredded cheese
- Opened baby formula
- Dough and cooked pasta

Source: USDA
Co-opLife

by Billy Gibson

Director of Communications
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
www.lacountryblog.wordpress.com

Billy Jack, Southwest, and a Washington D.C. adventure

When you’re stranded in an airport for eight hours with 30 teenagers and a few adult chaperones, a lot of thoughts can run through your mind.

It was during a rather lengthy delay in the New Orleans airport last month that I thought about a scene from the 1970s hit movie Billy Jack.

A former Green Beret, Billy had just gone berserk and used his martial arts skills to kick the crud out of the local sheriff’s kid, a smirly, sniveling, snoot-eyed slimeball. Moments later, Billy finds himself in a local park confronted by the sheriff himself and a dozen goons closing in to teach Billy a lesson.

That’s when Billy tells the sheriff he’s going to use his right foot to whop the sheriff on the opposite side of his face...and...”There’s not a (darn) thing the sheriff on the opposite side of his face...and...”

Being marooned in that airport made me feel a bit like the sheriff – Southwest Airlines was metaphorically karate kicking me in the kisser and there wasn’t a darn thing I could do about it.

Well, I could sing.

That was one of the options given to our group as we waited out the “maintenance” that had to be performed on our plane before it could fly us to Washington, D.C., for the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour.

The poor Southwest agent assigned to keep our crew from revolting decided to try to make the extended hold-up as entertaining as she could. So she started bringing the teens up to dance and sing into the intercom system. The teens being teens, they were happy drop a beat. That occupied the first 30 minutes of our delay. Only seven and a half more hours to go!

Before long, the agent, probably getting desperate, decided to start pointing to passers-by and waving them over to the microphone.

“All right, yall, what do you want this person to do?” she’d yell out to our group. (Acct. No. 1243701-001)

“Sing!” the kids would respond with enthusiasm. Then the selected sap sucker would launch into a karaoke-style tune.

Eventually, the agent spotted a fellow with a guitar case. The man revealed he was a professional musician from New Orleans returning with his band from a gig in Georgia. Then he let it rip on his guitar. Everybody clapped and laughed and I started tossing dollar bills into his guitar case for added effect.

Turns out the scene was caught on camera by the band’s drummer and was broadcast on WGN later that night.

I failed to get the name of the agent who kept our group’s attention diverted away from the fact that we were wasting the first entire day of our trip stranded in an airport, but she ought to be the president of Southwest Airlines. By the time we finally boarded the plane for Washington, several folks in our group were thanking her - thanking her! - for having such a great time.

Now, that’s a masterful bit of marketing, I’d say. Screw the customer and having such a great time.

Were thanking her - thanking her! - for making our way to the Capitol and meet with three members of our congressional delegation.

While sitting outside the Capitol waiting on lawmkaers, a news team noticed we were from Louisiana and wanted to interview some of the kids. The chaperones, meanwhile, were all secretly hoping this would be the last “newsworthy” event this group would have to encounter on our trip.

And we all agreed that the students handled the situation with a sense of calm, composure and a positive attitude.

Thankfully, Scalise and the others who were gunned down were able to recover from their wounds.

Personally, I look forward to next year’s trip to Washington when we will once again schedule a visit with Scalise. While we appreciate every visit with every member of our Louisiana delegation, in years past Rep. Scalise has really gone out of his way to welcome our Youth Tour students.

He always invites the students to meet in his office, away from the summer heat, and has water and snacks waiting for us. He also always makes sure to have an aide lead the group on a private tour of the inner recesses of the Capitol.

On the way home, I couldn’t help but be impressed by the way our youth responded to the adverse predicaments they faced on this trek. Frankly, I was surprised at how they showed remarkable constraint and patience in a time and age when you just assume today’s teens are losing those qualities.

And with so much hyperbole, hysteria and hypocrisy swirling around the political landscape these days, I couldn’t help but think how great it would be if some of our political partisans and extremists had the poise, emotional stability and sense of humor of our Youth Tour delegates.

Finally, my mind drifted back to that movie, Billy Jack. I wonder what would happen if Billy found himself going mano-a-mano with that creep who shot Steve Scalise.

(To view a video of the trip, visit https://youtu.be/IM7HucCyyHU.)

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEM-CO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Keep Cool Strategies for Summer

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Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. Here are five tips:

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2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you’re home, and higher before you leave the house. If you have a programmable thermostat, it can set itself.

3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. A ceiling fan moves the air around so anyone in the room feels cooler. There’s no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.

4. Close your drapes or blinds to block the heat when it’s sunny outside, but leave them open on cloudy days to get some natural daylight into your rooms.

5. Avoid cooking inside on hot summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order takeout or heat food up in the microwave.

Prevent Circuit Overload

With so many electrical devices in every room these days, there’s a possibility you’re overloading your circuits.

If your circuits are overloaded, it’s time to call a licensed electrician to upgrade your electrical system so it can keep up with the demands that new technology places on it.

Here’s how to tell if your home’s circuits are overloaded, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

• Lights are flickering, blinking or dimming.

• Electrical receptacles on the walls are warm to the touch or have become discolored.

• You smell a burning odor coming from receptacles or switches.

• Circuits trip regularly, especially when you turn on one appliance at the same time as another.

Here’s how to prevent overload from happening:

• Do not plug large appliances into extension cords or power strips. They each need a separate outlet.

• Get rid of extension cords. They’re meant for temporary use— not permanent. Don’t rig up year-round devices, like lamps or TVs, to extension cords.

• Notice how many extension cords you use. If it’s a lot, that could signal that you don’t have enough outlets. An electrician can add more.

• Don’t mistake a power strip for outlets. An electrician can add more.

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Stay informed: Check local news for extreme heat alerts.

Stay cool: If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours. Call your local health department to locate heat-relief shelters in your area.

Stay hydrated: Drink (nonalcoholic) fluids regularly, regardless of your activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

Don’t leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle

Do check on elderly friends and neighbors.

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Beat the Extreme Heat

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers’ instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Heat Stress: Who’s At Risk?

Adults over the age of 65, children under the age of four, individuals with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, and those without access to air conditioning.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Meeting of June 15, 2017
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, June 15, 2017. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The board then approved the minutes of the previous meetings, new member list, Treasurer’s Report and Operations Committee report as written.
From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented. The board next approved a resolution to execute the following contracts from bids received: Willbros T & D Services for the Pine Grove Substation 69 kV switch installation project; Chain Electric Company for the Cane Market Road Tie Line Construction Project; V-Tech, Inc. for three underground jobs (Woodland Cove, The Quarters @ Copper Mill and Courtney Run); and Ellis Electric Company for the Galvez Trail Underground Electrical Installation project.
From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving, committee chairman, reviewed the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial Summary reports. The board approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in February 2017, as uncollectable.
The board then resolved to approve the 2017 DEMCO Goals as presented by management. Next the board approved a resolution that appointed Mr. Leslie Falks and Mr. Daniel Berthelot to serve as DEMCO’s voting delegates to the 2017 ALEC Annual Meeting; and, Mr. John Vranic to serve as the alternate voting delegate. The board then resolved to re-elect Mr. Leslie Falks to represent DEMCO on the ALEC Board of Directors for a three-year term which expires in July 2020. Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.
Leslie Falks presented the Dixie Business Center and DEMCO Foundation reports with no action taken.
John Vranic presented the Manager’s report with no action taken.
Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

From the Board Room
DEMCO Board members receive committee reports

Be Prepared Before the Storm
Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:
- Water: Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- Food: Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies
- Tools: Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- First aid supplies, medicine
- Important documents

Visit redcross.org/domore to learn more about disaster kits.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

National Energy Source Trends
The way your electricity is generated is changing. Below is a comparison of energy sources used to generate electricity in 2006 and 2015. Natural gas is catching up to coal and will likely be the dominant fuel source for 2016, according to preliminary data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

2006 Energy Sources
- Coal 49%
- Nuclear 19%
- Natural Gas 20%
- Renewable (excluding hydro) 2%
- Other 3%

2015 Energy Sources
- Coal 33%
- Natural Gas 33%
- Nuclear 20%
- Renewable (excluding hydro) 6%
- Other 1%

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Page 10 • ALONG THESE LINES • July 2017
Long ago …
Farm families came to sell their goods and proudly display their best produce, stitchery, canned goods, and animals.
Fairs were also a place to hear speakers and music and get up and dance. People took turns at the midway games to show off their strength.

Now & Then
Pictured above are items found at fairs over the past. In the circle on the left, write the names of items that could only be found at fairs 100 years ago. In the circle on the right, list things you could only find at a fair today.

Where the two ovals overlap, write the names of items that could only be found at fairs 100 years. In the circle on the left, write the names of items that could only be found at fairs today AND in the past. Can you think of things to add to each group?

Standards Links: History, Understand families and communities now and in the past.

Fair Favorites
Ask 10 or more people to pick their favorite part of the fair from among the following choices. Color in a box on the graph to show each person’s preference.

Extra News Graph
Use this graph to gather data about what’s in your newspaper. Comb the newspaper for pictures of or references to the items on the list. Color in a box for every picture or reference you find.

CHALLENGE: Make up questions about your completed graph. Then show the graph to a family member and ask your questions.

Standards Links: Data, Organizes, displays, reads and interprets data.

Kid Scoop Jokes
Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word MIDWAY in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

Kid Scoop Vocabulary Builders
This week’s word: MIDWAY
The noun midway means a part of a fair filled with game booths.

Double Word Search
Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Standards Links: Letter sequencing, Recognized identical words, Scan and scan reading, Paired spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Crossword

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week’s word: MIDWAY
The noun midway means a part of a fair filled with game booths.

Try to use the word midway in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
Livestock Scramble
Young people bring their finest livestock to fairs. Unscramble the word below each kid to find out which animal he or she brought.

GPI
OWC
MALB
TEUKYR
ENKICH
TRIBAB

Standards Links: Spelling, Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly

Long ago …
Farm families came to sell their goods and proudly display their best produce, stitchery, canned goods, and animals.
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Check around & stay prepared!

HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

☐ 3-day supply of water & non-perishable food

☐ Spare clothing, blankets and pillows

☐ Toiletries, first-aid kit and prescription medicines

☐ Special items/food for babies and the elderly

☐ Special items for your pet including vaccination records, toys, food and a cage/crate

☐ Flashlights, portable radio and extra batteries

☐ Extra set of car keys, credit cards and cash

☐ Important documents kept in a waterproof container or watertight plastic bag
  • Identification, copy of birth certificate, marriage certificate and Social Security card
  • Insurance documents and medical records
  • Bank account numbers, online passwords and log-in information
  • Emergency contact list

☐ Emergency tools

KEEPING CURRENT: TIP #39

Never operate a portable generator inside your home, garage or other enclosed areas. Only use your generator outdoors, away from open windows, vents or doors. And, always follow manufacturer’s guidelines for proper use.

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