Along These LINES

Pepsi facility is part of growth trend in Livingston
I remember a day when you could fill up your gas tank without ever leaving your car. When I was a boy, my dad would pull up to the pump at the local filling station and a bell would ding as the wheels rolled over a rubber hose laid across the pavement. The bell alerted an attendant inside the garage that a customer was waiting for gas. Dad would tell the attendant how much gas he wanted, what grade of gas he wanted and whether he wanted his oil level checked, his tire pressure checked or his windshield washed.

The cost of this personalized service was built in to the price of the gasoline. Though self-service stations have been around since the 1950s, the full-service paradigm began to fade away in the 1970s when the price of gasoline skyrocketed due to an oil embargo in the Middle East that drove up prices all across the world. Folks would rather get out of their vehicles and do it themselves in order to save a few cents per gallon. Interestingly, there are still places across the world where you can receive full service at the pump. Until recently, in the states of Oregon and New Jersey, full service was the only option available for motorists. For decades they had laws in place banning self-service partly due to safety considerations. They did not want anyone mishandling the fuel and causing an explosion.

One thing that has not changed, however, is the process of paying for the fuel you store in your tank and then using that fuel as you drive along until it is time to fill up once again.

Please know that if you ever have any questions, just give us a call or visit our website – www.demco.org. We are always here to serve you, our valued members. There you will find detailed information about the different payment options that are available, including levelized billing, which is designed to help members fit their electric bills into their monthly budget, by billing an amount equal to approximately an annual monthly average.

The levelized billing option avoids the seasonal variations in electric bills such as those experienced this winter. Also included is a link that explains everything you need to know about understanding your bill. Every component, every digit and line item is highlighted and explained.

You will find other information about energy efficiency and ideas on how you can keep your bill as low as possible.

Finally, a quick reminder, our members are our owners and we consider it a privilege to serve. High winter bills are something that all of us who consume electrical power have to deal with. Our job is not to fleece our members, rather it is to make sure we all pay the lowest cost possible. (Acct. No. 80081665-001)

That has been our mission for nearly 80 years and our job is to supply you with the most economical and reliable electric service possible, something that will never change.
The annual membership meeting of DEMCO, when members of the cooperative vote for their board of directors and receive reports concerning the financial health and operation of their utility, is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018, beginning at 10 a.m.

The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road.

According to Brent Bradley, vice president of marketing and member services, director elections will be conducted with a mail-in ballot. “The mail ballot process has been utilized for many years by DEMCO and allows all members to have a voice in a convenient format,” he said.

Director elections are scheduled for Ascension Parish, District 1; East Baton Rouge Parish, District 2; Livingston Parish, District 7 and St. Helena Parish District 11. Clarence Brock (District 1), Jill McGraw (District 2) and Leslie Falks (District 7) currently represent the board of directors in these areas of the DEMCO system. The District 11 seat is presently open.

DEMCO members seeking positions on the board of directors must meet eligibility requirements as prescribed by the corporation’s bylaws (see notice to director candidates).

According to Bradley, director candidates must also pre-qualify in person in order to be considered as a candidate and to receive an election petition. Candidates are advised to contact DEMCO regarding pre-qualification of director candidates and pre-qualification dates at their earliest convenience.

Louisiana law and DEMCO’s bylaws require a petition with 50 valid signatures, from within individual board districts, prior to placing the candidate’s name on the ballot. Louisiana law also requires 15 percent of the membership, within individual board districts, register for the annual meeting for a valid election to take place.

More information concerning the 2018 annual membership meeting may be found in your local newspaper and in future editions of Along These Lines.

---

**Notice to DEMCO director candidates**

**Annual Meeting**
DEMCO’s Annual Membership Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2018, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road.

**DEMCO Bylaws**
Article IV, Section 4.04 of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provide that “no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director, who:

1. is not a member and bona fide resident in the district from which he is elected and whose principal place of residence is served by DEMCO; or
2. is in any way employed by or has a significant financial interest in a competing enterprise; or provides services or supplies to DEMCO; or
3. is an elected public official, or is the spouse of an elected public official, in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of $100.00 per annum is paid, it being the intent of the members of DEMCO that the board of directors of DEMCO be free from the influence of political officials; or
4. is a close relative, as defined in Article IV, Section 4.09, of any board member, or any employee of DEMCO; or
5. is a convicted felon; or
6. is a current employee of DEMCO, or has been terminated from employment by DEMCO.

**Principal place of residence defined**

To define the term “principal place of residence,” as used in the corporation bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.04, Board Policy 111.003 shall be followed:

- The principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be his or her habitual residence in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana.

A determination of principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be a finding of fact to be made by the Board of Directors of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation. In evaluating where a member’s principal place of residence exists, the Board of Directors shall consider the following:

1. Where the member usually sleeps;
2. Where most clothing, toiletries, household appliances, and similar personal property regularly used by the member are located;
3. Where the member is registered to vote;
4. Where the member, or a spouse with whom he or she lives, has a telephone in his or her name which is not usually on call forward to another residence;
5. Where the member directly receives most mail addressed to him or her;
6. Whether the member is free to enter the premises without notice to, or permission from others.

**Close relative defined**

Article IV, Section 4.09, of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provides the following:

Close relative shall mean the husband or wife, child, mother or father, step-mother or step-father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister or brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, grandparent or grandchild.

**Pre-qualification period**

To establish an annual membership meeting pre-qualification period during which DEMCO shall have adequate time to investigate potential director candidates and determine eligibility, as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws, prior to the issuance of a nominating petition, the following bylaws shall be followed:

A. A pre-qualification period for director candidates shall be established by the Board of Directors prior to the issuance of a nominating petition to ensure compliance with the corporation’s bylaws with reference to director eligibility.

B. The pre-qualification period shall be a three (3) day period during regular business hours, no more than 60 days, nor less than 45 days, prior to the date of the annual membership meeting as established by the Board of Directors.

C. Written notice of this policy shall be given to the membership annually in the corporation’s official newsletter, Along These Lines, and by inclusion in the “Calendar of Events,” published in the Official Journal of each parish where the corporation maintains service.

D. To prequalify, director candidates must appear in person, at the office of the Chief Executive Officer & General Manager, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, during the established pre-qualification period.

E. Director candidates shall complete and sign a Director Eligibility Information form and Qualification Certification in order to pre-qualify. The following information must be provided and certified as true by the director candidate and spouse, if applicable:

1. Date of Birth
2. Louisiana Driver’s License Number
3. Social Security Number
4. Employer
5. Job Title
6. Telephone Number
7. DEMCO Account Number
8. Certificate of Qualifying Certification

F. Director candidates who fail to pre-qualify will be declared ineligible to seek a position on the Board of Directors and will not be issued a nominating petition.

---

**Laundry Day Savings**

To save money in the laundry room, use cold water and less water overall.

- Unless the stains on your clothes are oil-based, warm or cool water will do just as good a job of removing them as hot water.
- Here are some ways to clean your clothes without cleaning out your bank account:
  - Wash clothes in cold water and use cold-water detergents.
  - Wash and dry full loads only. If you must run the washer before it’s full, adjust the water level so the whole machine doesn’t fill up unnecessarily.
  - Towels and heavy cotton items like jeans tend to take longer to dry than lightweight clothing. Don’t dry the two types together.
  - Let the dryer decide how long your clothes need to tumble. Newer models have moisture sensors and automatically stop the cycle when clothes are dry.
  - Clean the dryer’s lint screen after each load. Letting the lint build up creates a fire hazard.
  - If you have a high-efficiency washer, use detergents labeled “HE.” These low-sudsing detergents clean clothes well in machines that use less water.
Midion Smith can hardly spit out the word.

Ask him to complete the old pop commercial jingle, “Things go better with…” and although he certainly knows the answer, he chooses not to take the bait.

Ask him to name the mammoth international beverage corporation headquartered in his own hometown of Atlanta and he just grins without making a peep.

Drop him a hint that the answer begins with a “C” and ends with an “e” and all you get is stony silence.

He does get a chuckle, however, when he’s reminded of the classic Saturday Night Live skit where the grumpy Greek hash-slingers behind the counter at the greasy spoon Olympia Café shout to their customers, “No Coke! Pepsi!! Pepsi!!”

Smith is a Pepsi man through and through. A year ago he moved from Atlanta to become the unit production manager at the Livingston Pepsi Distribution Center located just south of the Livingston exit on Interstate 12.

As for his hometown, Smith says wryly, “We like to refer to Atlanta as Mountain Dew country. That’s how we say it. The number one 20-ounce beverage in the state of Georgia is Mountain Dew. We serve a lot of Mountain Dew there.”

Smith left Atlanta after spending seven years with Pepsi Beverages Company. A graduate of the business school at Wake Forest, the 30-year-old manager has worked his way up the corporate ranks and has been pleased with his relocation to South Louisiana.

Like most transplants from other states, Smith has fallen in love with the food and culture.

“The food down here is unquestionably the best compared to anywhere I’ve been, that’s for sure. Nobody can top it,” he said. “And the people down here have treated us great. They’ve welcomed us with open arms.” (Acct. No. 80023694-002)

The distribution center became a member of DEMCO when construction on the project began two years ago. The 140,000-square-foot facility was built on 15 acres adjacent to the new Epic Piping fabrication plant on Hwy. 63 in Livingston. The center combined similar facilities in Baton Rouge, Covington and Thibodaux and serves as the distribution hub for the South Louisiana region.

Smith said the center employs about 200 workers, including forklift operators, packagers, supervisory positions and sales personnel.

After Epic Piping began operations and the Pepsi warehouse facility opened for business, city and parish officials praised the companies for sticking to their commitments after the flood of 2016.

Also praising the businesses were DEMCO Vice President of Marketing and Member Services Brent Bradley, who is a member of the Livingston Parish Economic Development Council.

“We’re seeing a lot of growth and investment in that industrial footprint off I-12 and it’s really been a boon for Livingston Parish and the region,” Bradley said. “These are solid, stable, trusted companies that are highly competitive in their fields, well run, and well managed. It’s a pleasure for us to provide electrical power for these companies and to be an integral part of not only their success but an instrumental part of the trajectory of economic growth in our service area.”

Bradley said the goal of both the Council as a support organization and DEMCO as a service provider is to see Livingston Parish continue its trend of quickly becoming a hub for major manufacturers and logistics companies looking to expand their businesses.

Bradley points to the addition of Martin-Brower’s relocation to Livingston Parish – along with 190 jobs - from Port Allen in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Smith said PepsiCo generates more than $60 billion in net revenue every year. The company includes a wide range of food and beverages including 22 brands that generate more than $1 billion each in retail sales.

Pepsi generated even more interest in its products after running an attention-grabbing television commercial during the Super Bowl. The ad featured Morgan Freeman and Game of Thrones star Peter Dinklage. The ad was design to promote two Pepsi products: Doritos Blaze and Mountain Dew Ice.

Smith said the move to Livingston Parish is mutually beneficial.

“It’s a two-way street,” he said. “We’re excited about the opportunity to have a positive effect on the community and to grow together into the future. We provide paychecks for local employees who want to learn and grow their careers. The more the parish and the residents grow, the more we grow.”

Smith said the facility distributes about 7 million cases of Pepsi Products a year throughout the region.

But if you’re thinking all that soda is expanding the waistlines of consumers, Smith points out that there’s a Pepsi beverage for every taste and every diet plan.

“If you want to be healthy, we’ve got the number one water product in Aquafina. We have the number one water innovation product with Life Water. If you want coffee, we have Starbucks, we have the number one protein shake brand with Muscle Milk, the number one sports drink, Gatorade. We have the number one tea brand with Lipton, and the premium tea brand, Pure Leaf,” he said.

Next on Smith’s personal agenda is learning how to cook and eat crawfish.

“Someone said you pinch the tails and suck the heads. I don’t know about that. But I intend to go to as many crawfish boils as I can this spring,” he said.

Crawfish boils. Now those are events that can make a person mighty thirsty.
Five warning signs indicating an electrical malfunction

When your DEMCO electric service works properly, you never notice it. Most of the time, you flip a switch, the lights go on and all is right with the world. It’s only those rare occasions when things go wrong that you start paying attention. Here are five warning signs that can indicate an electrical malfunction.

1. Flickering lights. If an electrical circuit in your house is overloaded, it could cause the lights to dim or flicker. This usually happens when you have too many energy-intensive appliances or fixtures wired to the same circuit. For example, your lights may flicker when your washing machine is running if the two are on the same circuit. The solution: Ask a licensed electrician to move the lights to a different circuit or install a dedicated line for the washing machine.

2. Suspicious odors. It’s not unusual for a new appliance to smell a little bit bad the first time or two you use it. But if outlets, the breaker box or other appliances emit a foul odor, that could signal a problem with the wiring. Switch off and unplug anything that doesn’t smell right, and call an electrician.

3. Sparks. An appliance that sends off a spark could be damaged. Sparks from a breaker panel or fusebox could signal something more serious and should be inspected by a qualified electrician as soon as possible.

4. Tripped breakers. A breaker tripping more often than occasionally isn’t normal, and it’s probably not safe. Circuit breakers that trip signal an overloaded circuit. If the same appliance, such as a hair dryer or vacuum cleaner, trips the circuit every time, chances are that the appliance is the culprit. But if the same outlet trips the circuit no matter what you plug into it, it’s likely an overload on the system. This is a job for a professional.

5. A buzz. Electric appliances should not buzz. They shouldn’t make any sounds. If they do, you might have a problem with an outlet or some wiring. An electrician can fix this.

Power Tip

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3–4 percent per year on water heating.
Notice of holiday office closing

The DEMCO headquarters office located on Wax Road and all DEMCO branch offices will be closed in observance of Good Friday on March 30, 2018.

Application for Scholarship Program

Students Name: __________________________
Parents Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________________
E-mail Address: __________________________
Telephone No.: __________________________
DEMCO Account #: _______________________

Do you qualify for TOPS Assistance? Yes___No___
School you will attend: ____________________

(Complete this form and return it to DEMCO by May 4, 2018)
Howard represents DEMCO at national meeting

Joseph Howard, a 2017 Washington Youth Tour delegate sponsored by DEMCO, recently represented the state at the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) held in Nashville. During his Youth Tour trip to Washington last summer, Howard was selected by his peers to serve as the Youth Leadership Council representative from Louisiana. While in Nashville, Howard participated in youth leadership training and took part in a community service project. He also worked with NRECA staff to promote congressional support for issues important to rural electric cooperative consumers.

*Shown at left are DEMCO Board President Dickie Sitman, Board Member Jill McGraw and Joseph Howard.*

Winter weather bill alert

In December and January, extreme cold temperatures increased energy consumption across the region. Many power providers hit an all-time record winter peak three times during this period. This increase in energy consumption, caused by extreme cold temperatures, has resulted in large increases in kilowatt-hour usage for many of our members. Since electricity is paid for after it is consumed, at times members will receive these bills during periods of milder temperatures causing confusion.

Please check the service period on your bill for the dates that your meter readings occurred. The difference in these readings is the kilowatt-hour usage for the bill period that is used to calculate your bill total.

10 Tips for Spring Energy Savings

1. **CLEAR THE AIR:** Open windows to allow fresh (free!) air to circulate.
2. **COOK OUTSIDE:** Enjoy a few hours of sunshine by using your grill or smoker to add festive flavors to meals.
3. **SEARCH AND SEAL:** Cracks and spaces let conditioned air outside. Caulk and weather strip to seal leaks.
4. **NATURAL LIGHT:** Open blinds and curtains, and turn off the lights to save energy.
5. **BE FAN FRIENDLY:** Use ceiling fans to circulate airflow.
6. **ATMOSPHERIC ADJUSTMENT:** Remember to adjust your thermostat settings for the milder months ahead.
7. **TUNE UP:** Schedule an appointment with your HVAC technician to identify any potential problems with your system.
8. **PEAK SAVINGS:** Think about supply and demand. Plan household chores that require electricity during off-peak hours (when energy demand is low).
9. **TAKE CHARGE:** Consider disconnecting electrical devices you don’t use regularly until you need them. Plugged-in devices use energy even when not in use.
10. **MOVE OUTDOORS:** Time spent outdoors offers opportunities to turn off lights, televisions, computers and home appliances. You’ll be more active, have more fun and save more money.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*
I never really knew there was such a thing as the Monday Morning Blues until just a few years ago.

Though I’d heard Fats Domino singing about “Blue Mondays,” the start of the workweek always seemed to be like all the other days – that is until I passed the half-century mark and began transforming into a Grumpy Old Man.

Since then, every time Monday morning comes around after a weekend of doing, well, whatever I want, I feel disoriented, light-headed and puny, like I’m recovering from a gin-soaked evening on Bourbon Street.

The funk usually doesn’t lift until right around lunchtime on Tuesday.

After giving it some thought, I finally realized how I stayed immune from the Monday Morning Blues for so long...it’s because of a fellow named Buckskin Bill, who provided a fool-proof way to chase the blues away during my developmental years.

For more than three decades, William “Buckskin Bill” Black hosted a morning show called Storyland for pre-schoolers and an afternoon program called The Buckskin Bill Show for elementary kids.

And he’d start off each week with boundless zeal and enthusiasm by leading a mood-altering activity called the Monday Morning March.

Legions of kids would join in from their living rooms as Buckskin strutted around his Storyland Cabin to the tune of what music masters might call the Monday Morning March.

He believed people had the power to “create their own moods” and that beginning the week with something silly and fun could help folks get started on a positive note.

I think he was right, though once you get over a certain age it might require marching a little longer and more enthusiastically to really take effect - if you can only muster up the energy.

Besides entertaining and educating children, he had other goals to pursue. For 15 of the 35 years his show was on the air, Buckskin spearheaded an advocacy campaign that led to the creation of the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo. (Acct. No. 5572601-001)

Deciding the zoo needed an elephant and realizing the powerful influence of his platform, he later launched an effort to raise the funds required to bring not one, but two, elephants to the GBR Zoo.

Buckskin invited children and their parents to come down to the television studio and drop their pennies into a safe while the cameras rolled and Lawrence Welk’s “Elephant Walk” played in the background. The lines of children - black ones, white ones, rich ones and poor ones - extended out the back door and down the block.

A native Oklahoman and veteran of the Korean War, Buckskin became a legendary character and appeared in scores of parades and public events, spreading joy and goodwill to an entire generation. I remember snaring a mini-loaf of Holsum bread from Buckskin at the New Roads Mardi Gras parade back in 1973, which had the cache of catching a Zulu coconut in downtown New Orleans.

He raised money and supported programs to provide medication to people in developing countries and to buy an airplane for delivering medical supplies to far-flung locales.

He went on to serve two terms on the School Board and received a personal letter of commendation by President Ronald Reagan to mark Storyland’s 30th anniversary.

Most afternoons as an elementary student, I’d drop my books on the dining room table, whip up a batch of Jiffy Pop and tune in to The Buckskin Bill Show. Those were the days, even though I had to endure the indignity of actually getting up and walking across the room to change the channel when it was over.

Buckskin Bill passed away recently at the age of 88, may he rest in peace.

And there was one more thing he was right about. He often reminded viewers, “You’re never completely dressed until you put on a smile.”

Those are simple words of wisdom that even a grumpy old man can take to heart.

---

**News Notes**

**Protect your electronics**

Chances are good that you have an electronic item or two in your house that you didn’t have last year. Are you doing all you can to protect your expensive equipment from power surge damage?

A power surge in a home full of large home appliances and electronics isn’t unusual. Any device with an on-off switch can cause a surge.

That impressive new entertainment system or the TV that takes up a whole wall won’t be easy to replace if something goes wrong. Your best bet is to protect that equipment by connecting it to surge protection.

You can buy individual surge protectors for each piece of equipment, or you can invest in a whole-house surge protector.

The latter device typically comes with a warranty that covers up to $50,000 worth of damage if your appliances or electronic devices fail because of a surge.

Whole-house surge protectors typically are wired to the electric service box and located nearby to protect all the appliances and electrical systems in a home. They typically cost $200-$500, often less than the cost of replacing a huge TV or your computer equipment.

**Lucky Account Number Contest**

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners included in this edition of Along These Lines. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win the $25 prize. To claim your prize, please call 225-262-3072.

---

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

**What to do if your home floods**

Flood conditions can pose an electrocution hazard, especially if water reaches the height of outlets.

For shallow flooding, remove water with a wet/dry shop vacuum plugged into a dry circuit, keeping cords out of the water. For deep flooding, call the fire department to pump the water out, or rent a heavy-duty gas-powered pump to do it yourself.

If you must enter the space while it’s still flooded, the house should first be completely disconnected from the electric grid by an electrician, a cooperative employee or specially trained firefighter.

If gas appliances are in flooded areas, the gas service should be turned off at the meter outside.

Never go into a deeply flooded space alone; have someone stand by to be sure you come out safely. Wear rubber boots or waders, and proceed with caution.

Take a bright light and watch your step. A flooded floor can be slimy, slippery and littered with debris and other hazards, such as tools, hoses or extension cords.

Most flooded electrical and mechanical equipment should be replaced.

Remove and discard flooded electrical outlets, switches, fixtures, wiring and gas appliances. In almost all cases, flooded electrical motors should be replaced.

---

**Protect your electronics**

Chances are good that you have an electronic item or two in your house that you didn’t have last year. Are you doing all you can to protect your expensive equipment from power surge damage?

A power surge in a home full of large home appliances and electronics isn’t unusual. Any device with an on-off switch can cause a surge.

That impressive new entertainment system or the TV that takes up a whole wall won’t be easy to replace if something goes wrong. Your best bet is to protect that equipment by connecting it to surge protection.

You can buy individual surge protectors for each piece of equipment, or you can invest in a whole-house surge protector.

The latter device typically comes with a warranty that covers up to $50,000 worth of damage if your appliances or electronic devices fail because of a surge.

Whole-house surge protectors typically are wired to the electric service box and located nearby to protect all the appliances and electrical systems in a home. They typically cost $200–$500, often less than the cost of replacing a huge TV or your computer equipment.

**Lucky Account Number Contest**

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners included in this edition of Along These Lines. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win the $25 prize. To claim your prize, please call 225-262-3072.
Each year, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and incidents in their own homes.

More homeowners than ever before are tackling do-it-yourself projects.

However, most do not have the training or experience needed to safely perform home electrical work, increasing the risk of injuries.

Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care, and cutting corners can prove a costly mistake.

DEMCO strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home. However, if you do decide to do it yourself, consider the following important safety tips before undertaking any home electrical project:
• Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
• Take time to learn about your home electrical system so that you can safely navigate and maintain it.
• Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level. Knowing when to call a professional may help prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.
• Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
• Test wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off.
• Never touch metal pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.

Many do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. Using power tools safely requires skilled instruction and training. The most common scenario for power tool-related electrocutions occurs when the equipment comes in contact with live electrical wires while it is being used. Stay safe by following these tips:
• Use ground-fault circuit interrupters with every power tool to protect against electric shocks.
• Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet in length.
• Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
• Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
• When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips.

Be aware of the dangers of do-it-yourself projects

DID YOU KNOW?

Solar energy and wind power may not seem like a big deal. Unless you’re talking about the future. Or maybe even the present.

For all today’s talk about renewable energy, it still makes up a pretty small portion of energy sources that generate our electricity. But it’s coming on fast, and it’s picking up speed.

Here’s how wind, the sun and water generate electricity.

**Solar energy**
Solar energy generates only about 1 percent of the nation’s electricity, but that’s a big increase from just five years ago. Solar growth will continue as costs fall, technology improves and people learn better ways to use solar energy.

What most people mean when they talk about solar energy is photovoltaic electricity. Over the decades, scientists experimented with solar-sensitive materials to make them lighter, longer-lasting and more affordable wafers called photovoltaic cells, which are integrated into solar photovoltaic modules. One of their first uses was space travel, and continued improvements are allowing solar to become less costly.

Solar panel prices dropped 85 percent in the past seven years with improvements in materials and larger-scale production methods.

Another advance is about to give the industry a boost, says Dale Bradshaw, a technical consultant with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He says solar panels can now track the sun as it moves across the sky rather than sitting fixed in place, raising their productivity by collecting more sunlight. Half the large solar installations in the country already use some kind of sun-tracking technology.

The solar industry is also maturing with different forms of ownership: utility, industrial, commercial and residential scale, and community solar installations. Utility scale is large banks of solar panels owned by an electric utility or other large organization, producing many megawatts of energy. Industrial installations can range from kilowatts up to multi-megawatts and be placed on rooftops, over parking lots or on land near industrial and commercial enterprises. Residential installations are also being installed primarily on rooftops, especially in the Southwest.

Bradshaw says community solar can ease the higher expense of self-owned rooftop solar. With community solar, a utility builds a large installation and sells shares in the project to customers interested in an investment in renewable energy.

Bradshaw also notes that community solar allows a homeowner to avoid both maintenance of their own system, and the hassle of sorting out different offers from rooftop solar vendors.

**Wind power**
Wind power generates nearly 6 percent of the nation’s electricity, and is growing at a pretty good clip, with an increase of about 35 percent during the past four years.

In a way, wind generates electricity the same way as coal, natural gas and nuclear—by spinning a turbine that creates an electricity-generating magnetic field. The huge difference is that the turbine is turned by enormous propeller-like blades designed to catch the wind.

It’s the size of those blades, and the height of the turbine towers (as much as 300 feet in the air) that makes the difference.

Wind is a useful renewable, but it has to be utility scale. A tall utility-scale tower can capture as much as 50 percent of the wind, but there’s not a practical, personal alternative to compare with rooftop solar. A rural residential customer or a rural commercial customer with a 50 to 100-foot tower will probably generate electricity only about 25 percent of the time.

**Hydroelectric power**
Another way to turn an electricity-generating turbine is to store water behind a dam then harness its power as it flows to the river below.

Specialists disagree on whether to count hydroelectric power as renewable energy. On the one hand, it doesn’t create greenhouse gas or other chemical pollutants by burning fossil fuel. On the other hand, large-scale hydro typically calls for building a permanent dam across a river valley and flooding the area behind it. (Act No. 80088862-001)

Another option is to put hydroelectric generators directly in rapidly flowing rivers to capture power, but this is a significantly more expensive option than using hydroelectric power from water stored behind a permanent dam. Then there’s the question of whether you consider flowing water renewable, or something that can be used up.

Hydroelectric power generates nearly 7 percent of the electricity in the United States. Although that number changes a bit during times of drought or heavy rain, the amount of electricity produced by hydro power has been relatively stable during the past several years.

**Did you know?**

- Approximately 15 percent of the nation’s electricity is generated from renewable energy sources, like hydro, wind and solar power. That percentage may seem low, but renewable energy generation is gaining momentum and continues to play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Solar energy**
- 6.5% generated by hydropower.

**Wind energy**
- 5.6% generated by wind.

**Solar energy**
- 0.9% generated by solar.

Source: Energy Information Administration

Renewable energy is a growing source of power
Meeting of January 18, 2018
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, January 18, 2018.

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 Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report.

Next the board approved a resolution for the following projects: LineTec Services, LLC for the Quick Mart – Best Stop #25 Overhead Construction Project, Shredhedz for the Highway 42 Right of Way (Quick Mart – Best Stop #25), Arbor Resources for the 2018 Right of Way Hourly Rate Schedule, Ellis Electric Company for the Kaden Creek Underground Electrical Installation and the Americana Phase 4-D Underground Electrical Installation Project and the Palms at Jouban Lakes 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 August 2017 as uncollectible. They then adopted a resolution to approve the 2018 Operations and Capital Budgets as presented.

Next the board authorized John D. Vranic, CEO and General Manager as the Certifier on behalf of the Corporation, who shall be responsible for submitting and certifying to the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and any and all data required by the RD Apply Intake System; and that Michael R. Johnson, Vice President of Finance of the Corporation, be the Administrator on behalf of the Corporation, who shall give access to the Corporation’s data, as appropriate, to other employees, officers, or contractors of the Corporation, for the purpose of complying with the RD Apply Intake System.

The board next ratified the action to appoint Mr. Dennis R. Lott as the 2018 NRECA Annual and Regional Meeting Voting Delegate, DEMCO’s, NCSC and NRTC Voting Delegate, and DEMCO’s CFC Voting Delegate; and also the action taken to appoint Mr. John D. Vranic as the alternate voting delegate in all of the abovementioned capacities. Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken. Leslie Falks presented the Dixie Business Center and the 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.
What is your favorite sport or exercise? Write a paragraph describing it and the reasons why you like it.

The energy of motion. Anything that is moving has kinetic energy, and the faster it is moving, the more kinetic energy.

An object high above the ground has potential energy because of the work it took to get it there and the work it will do when it falls.

Thermal energy is the name for energy that comes from the temperature of an object.

When a basketball is held above the ground, it has a lot of potential energy and no kinetic energy. As it falls, it starts losing its potential energy and gets kinetic energy.

When the ball hits the ground, it has lots of kinetic energy. The friction against the ground slows the ball down, but it also slightly heats the ball. This is thermal energy.

The ball bounces back up to a lower height than where it started. The original potential energy was transformed into thermal energy and kinetic energy. And that’s just the way the ball bounces.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

To improve your basketball skills and get some great exercise, work on these drills with some friends or family members.

Every Day Practice

Shoot 10 times from three different places—first the baseline, next from the elbow of the free-throw line and the following 10 from inside the lane. Repeat on the opposite side.

Practice with Two Friends

Shoot two free throws while one player rebounds and the other player sprints around the half court. Then the shooter takes the rebounds, the player shooting rebounds takes the sprints and the sprinter shoots two free throws.

Bounce Twice

One player shoots from a three-point distance and his partner lets the ball bounce twice and then shoots from that spot.

Basketball Golf

Place markers at different points on the court and set a number for how many attempts it should take before scoring from that spot. Start from the marker and continue shooting from wherever the ball lands until the shot is made. Keep track of attempts. The player with the lowest score wins.

Kid Scoop Puzzle

Circle the basketball that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.

Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Write On!

What is your favorite sport or exercise? Write a paragraph describing it and the reasons why you like it.
If you’re like most people, when the weather turns warmer, the cold winter days are long forgotten. But those abnormally cold days produced record-high energy consumption as heaters worked overtime to shake off the winter chill. Cold conditions also mean more people were in their homes consuming more power than usual, running space heaters, watching TV, baking, etc. Remember that all electricity usage counts, and it really adds up. Here are a few reminders of ways to reduce your energy usage.

**UPGRADE TO ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES, DOORS & WINDOWS.**

**SEAL & INSULATE DOORS & WINDOWS.**

**ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT.**

**REDUCE hot water temperature to 120 degrees.**

Visit demco.org for more energy efficiency tips.