Energy Explorers

Winter Word Search

Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR	ICICLE	SNOWFLAKE
CHILLY	MITTENS	SNOWMAN
HOT CHOCOLATE	SCARF	WINTER

HOT CHOCOLATE						SCARF						WINTER			
ICE SKATE															
R	-1	L	U	J	М	Q	Т	G	S	R	-1	R	P	S	
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	0	Ε	Q	W	Ε	R	N	
N	N	Z	-1	R	٧	-1	Т	Т	D	н	M	0	W	E	
K	Α	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	0	X	P	T	т	
-1	K	М	X	R	L	-1	K	Α	D	т	S	н	Α	т	
C	В	Α	W	н	W	Ε	W	S	1	C	C	٧	D	1	
т	P	S	D	0	М	Q	N	U	G	н	Α	F	н	М	
Q	K	U	Z	٧	N	0	N	М	٧	0	R	0	0	Х	
F	U	G	C	Α	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L	
R	0	Q	т	F	C	F	Υ	D	K	0	G	Ε	Q	В	
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	Α	Ε	L	K	D	R	G	
E	т	Α	K	S	Ε	C	1	В	G	Α	J	R	W	R	
R	K	В	U	C	н	-1	L	L	Υ	т	R	Ε	V	Х	
E	L	т	М	F	F	0	Υ	1	K	Ε	Q	X	Α	Α	
D	w	F	0	L	- 1	X	1	X	В	L	0	R	0	Υ	

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service







We recognize 141 years of combined experience. Our cooperatives have prospered under your guidance.

On behalf of

our members,

we would like to

thank our retiring

trustees for their





Retiring Board Members Recognized

On Dec. 12, Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative and LJEC recognized seven trustees for their dedication and service to the co-ops and members. Each retiring

trustee received a service plaque and a gift of service.

Kaw Valley trustees ROBERT LYNCH, GENE "PETE" ALLEN and LLOYD WULFKUHLE have a combined 78 years of service. Wulfkuhle was elected to the board of directors in 1985 has served 31 years. Allen was elected in 1990 and has served the cooperative 26 years. Lynch was elected in 1995 and has served 21 years.

LJEC trustees KEN BAILEY, BILL POHL, MARTY SHAW and LARRY STEVENS have a combined 50 years of experience. Bailey has served 20 years on the

The progressive and forward thinking ideas these folks brought to the board room has served the members well.

> board after first being elected in 1996 and then appointed to return after retirement in 2015 to fill a vacancy. Shaw and Pohl have served 13 years after being elected in 2003. Stevens was elected in 1999 and has served 17 years.

> "The members of both cooperatives have been fortunate to have these people in the board room," said Steve Foss, CEO, "The progressive and forward thinking ideas these folks brought to the board room has served the members well, and has set a foundation for success as we move forward as FreeState Electric Cooperative."

FreeState Electric Calendar

Support you co-op's hard-working line crew all year round

with a 2017 FreeState Electric Cooperative calendar. Pick up



Jeanine Murphy

Harlan Hunt

John Wine

Tour Touchstone Energy Cooperative

LJEC, President & **Rob Sage** Mark Gratny

Mark Wulfkuhle Marty Shaw

Larry Butel

Dallas Caster

Gene "Pete" Allen Ken Bailey **Bill Conley**

Robert Lynch

Don Montgomery

Lloyd Wulfkuhle

Gregory Lee

Manager

Staff

Steve Foss

Randy Richards Christopher Parr

Office Hours

Kaw Valley, West
District Office
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LJEC, East District
Office
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Retiring Trustees Serve 141 Years Combined



into an exciting future here at the

co-op. One of those changes is

the introduction of the new Board

of Trustees in January. We have 11

Board members who are commit-

ted to making the transition and

will be working hard for each and

as FreeState Electric Cooperative.

vital to the cooperative. They are

your voice. They make decisions that will impact each of you, and

because they are members them-

selves, the decisions they make in

the board room affect them, too.

Valley Electric Board of Trustees

and four members of the LIEC

Board of Trustees voluntarily

relinquished their seats moving

part of this cooperative alliance.

These folks have a combined 141

vears of experience under their

forward. They have been a valuable

Three members of the Kaw

Your Board of Trustees is

has been at Kaw co-ops. I want to personally thank Valley Electric them for their hard work, dedication, leadership and guidance they Cooperative have given to our Boards. and LJEC! Although

Their leadership and progreswe seem to sive thinking are what have allowed have underus the innovation and forwardgone a lot of thinking attitude that will be a foundation for success for many change over the last year, we are transitioning vears to come

On behalf of the staff at Kaw Valley and LJEC and each and every member, I'd like to thank them for their service to you and their commitment to making our members our number one priority.

helts when it comes to leading our

LEAVENWORTH-JEFFER

P.O. Box 70 McLouth, KS 66054-

1100 SW Auburn Rd, Topeka, KS 6

KAW VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERA

ELECTRIC COOPERA

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every member as we move forward Kaw Valley Trustee Retirees LLOYD WULFKUHLE, 31 years

► GENE "PETE" ALLEN. 26 years ► ROBERT LYNCH, 21 years

LJEC Trustee Retirees

► KEN BAILEY, 20 years

LARRY STEVENS, 17 years MARTHA IO "MARTY" SHAW 13

► HENRY "BILL" POHL, 13 years We appreciate your service to

the cooperatives. We would not be where we are today without your leadership and guidance.



KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING | DECEMBER 2016

January 2017

S M T W U F S

16 17 18 19 20

22 23 24 25 26 27

30

KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING DECEMBER 201

DECEMBER 2016 KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING



Right-of-Way Clearing Increases Safety and Reliability

Clearing trees can be inconvenient for our members. However, the work that we do to keep lines clear of vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members Tree-related outages account for 15 percent of service disruption.

Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative and LJEC employ in-house tree crews dedicated to right-of-way clearing. These crews work to reduce outages caused by trees and reduce line loss. Every tree that grows too close to lines is a source of loss, and that means wasted energy.

The co-op's tree crew began at the East District (LJEC) in 2000. Since inception, the tree crew has been working not only on vegetation management across the territories but also during outages when tree damage needs to be cleared in order to make repairs to damaged infrastructure. By maintaining a comprehensive, regular tree-trimming program, FreeState Electric Cooperative can reduce these safety concerns and service interruptions.

Why clearing is necessary

Trees make our communities beautiful, but tree limbs and power lines are not a good combination. FreeState Electric's distribution lines carry our members' electricity and must be kept clear to protect their safety and keep their electric service reliable. By trimming trees, we are

able to reduce safety hazards and electrical outages.

The East and West District (Kaw Valley) tree crews are trained professionals and are equipped to clear vegetation safely. If you need vegetation management, do not try to clear the vegetation on your own; instead, contact your District to report the problem. FreeState would like to remind you of the following safety tips: ▶ NEVER attempt to clear the lines

- vourself: ▶ NEVER climb a tree with branches near lines; and
- ▶ NEVER touch power lines Contact with power lines could result in serious injury or death.

Reporting Members are asked to call the cooperative if they observe a problem along the lines. Our crew can only address issues that they are aware of. We rely on our members to help identify problem areas.

Providing access

We work with members as much as we can when it comes to planning tree maintenance. However, it is important for all members to keep the co-op updated with your current contact information.

The tree crew can be called to clear the right-of-way after an outage, but the crew is dedicated full time to the system. This means a lot of jobs are done to take precautionary or proactive measures.

Tree crew priorities include:

- ► Outages Assisting linemen by clearing areas where trees or tree damage hinder infrastructure repair. Due to safety concerns, these jobs are always done as efficiently and as quickly as possible
- Rebuilds The tree crew clears areas for linemen to make updates to the infrastructure without any obstacles.
- ► Trouble spots These are areas that experience frequent outages. The tree crew works closely with the operations crew to identify these areas and address them as quickly as possible.
- Member requests The cooperative appreciates member reports and requests to help reduce damages and maintain safety and reliability. Member requests are prioritized by the level of danger posed to members, member property or the FreeState infrastructure. Therefore, the timeline of job completion may vary depending on the circumstances.

Pruning practices

Our tree crews prune trees according to industry standards to achieve aesthetic value, as well as prolonged

We look specifically for trees

or vegetation that could interfere with our lines, conductors, substations and other infrastructure. In most cases, vegetation that is removed will be ground up on site or chipped. Wood is usually left where

the tree was removed. When pruning or doing clearing, the co-op abides to the following procedures:

- Mark trees with a red ribbon to indicate removal.
- ▶ Remove trees rather than just trimming them to the point they appear "butchered"
- ▶ Work with members who have trees they want to keep. Our priority is not only clearing lines but also being considerate of member's property.
- ▶ Prune to keep tree health in mind. ► Help members choose an appropriate tree to plant in the right location
- Trim trees up to the meter. Any lines or infrastructure beyond the meter is the responsibility of the member
- Leave the member's property as clean as possible. ▶ Deliver wood chips to members
- directly. If a member is interested in chins contact the office to be put on the list. We make an effort to accommodate any requests.

Chemical application The tree crew does have access

and training to apply chemicals on specific clearing jobs. Our crews will only utilize nonrestricted use chemicals: Pathway,

Imazypyre and Triclopyr blend, Diuron, Garlon 4. Krenite, and Hyvar Any of the mentioned chemicals are available to the general public and pose little to no risk to pets or nearby plants when applied

according to label instructions. Chemicals are only applied under the direct supervision of an employee who is a Certified

Commercial Pesticide Applicator. Cut stumps are treated with a low pressure, hand-held sprayer to prevent regrowth. Untreated stumps grow back very quickly, and the growth can often be thicker and more troublesome than the original vegetation. At times we use higher pressure, foliar application when needed. Chemical application is

important to our ability to maintain

a clear right-of-way. During spring and early summer months (April through June) the tree crews may apply chemicals to areas that have the potential to limit access to infrastructure. These areas often include substations and power lines that have been previ-

ously cleared. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the chemicals being applied, contact Randy Wager at 800-794-1989.

co-ops operate at cost, any excess evenues, called margins, are allocated

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$13.8 billion to members since 1988-\$1 billion in 2015 alone Because electric and retired to members in the form of



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Finance Corporation

Γip of the Month

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons-holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs

Holiday Office Closings

Our offices will be closed the following dates during the upcoming holiday season:

- Friday, Dec. 23
- Monday, Dec. 26

New Year's 2017

Monday, Jan. 2

Kaw Valley Electric and LJEC would like to wish you and your family a joyful







1st-Year Tree Trimmer



2nd-Year Tree Trimmer



DECEMBER 2016 KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING

Your Cooperative's Tree Crew





Tree Crew Forem



Tree Crew Foreman



Tree Trimmer**



