

**KAW VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

LightTalk



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing lamps or TVs near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Kaw Valley 2016 Youth Tour Winners

Kaw Valley congratulates the 2016 youth tour winners. **MITCHELL PORTER**, Topeka, was selected to represent Kaw Valley at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at Steamboat Springs, CO, July 16-22. Porter is currently a junior at Rossville High School. His interests include golf, metal fabrication, and landscaping. He enjoys being handy and performing general household chores.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp allows students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming to grow and develop their leadership skills together. The students will enjoy white water rafting on the Colorado River, touring the Trapper Coal Mine and Craig Generation Plant, visiting Mt. Werner and participating in a variety of camp activities.

CAMRYN MATHIS, Lawrence, and **REBECCA STORMANN**, Topeka, will represent Kaw Valley at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-16. Mathis is a junior at Bishop Seabury Academy, Lawrence. She enjoys participating in Extreme Cowboy Association races



Camryn Mathis



Mitchell Porter

and studying science and languages (Latin and Spanish).

Stormann is a junior at Washburn Rural High School, Topeka. She has participated in archery activities since the age of five, and she enjoys volunteering and traveling because she likes learning about places that are different from where she lives.

During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, they will tour the Smithsonian Museums, have breakfast with legislators on Capitol Hill, tour the memorials and take a dance cruise on the Potomac River.



Rebecca Stormann

Visit SmartHub to Pay Your Bill Online

A new online bill pay option is now available at Kaw Valley Electric!

To utilize the pay now feature, visit <https://kawvalleyelectric.smarthub.coop/PayNow>. (The URL is case sensitive.) If you have trouble accessing this website, please contact the office for assistance. See more details on page 16-D.



Make the Most of Your Ceiling Fans

Ceiling fans are helpful tools in keeping your home's indoor temperatures comfortable and if used properly, they can also help lower your energy costs.

Use the following tips to make the most of your ceiling fans:

1 Flip the switch – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades to change the blade direction. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill.” Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

2 Adjust your thermostat – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

3 Choose the right size – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan with a diameter of 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

4 Turn it off – When the room is unoccupied, save electricity by turning the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people, not rooms.

Edgecomb Begins New Role



Brent Edgecomb

Brent Edgecomb began his new role as Director of Information Technology for the Kaw Valley Electric and LJEC Alliance on January 25.

As a native of Ottawa, he studied Management Information Systems at Ot-

tawa University, while simultaneously providing leadership in the University's IT department for nearly 14 years. Brent's curiosity and drive in the field of Information Technology made the move to the cooperative world a natural fit.

His current position allows him to express his creativity and passion for technology, while also provide meaningful benefits to the cooperatives and members.

Celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 11, Kaw Valley Electric served the linemen and staff lunch to celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

In addition, Steve Foss, CEO, presented a Board resolution recognizing the dedication and commitment of the line staff to Kaw Valley Electric members.

“Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines,” Foss said. “Conditions can be dangerous, but



Steve Foss, CEO, addresses Kaw Valley Electric linemen and staff on National Lineman Appreciation Day.

they power through to ensure reliable service for our members.”

Kaw Valley Electric and its members appreciate the work the linemen do to keep the power flowing and protect the public's safety.



#electricalsafetymonth

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Help prevent home fires! Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home – and tested every month.



The Dangers of Electric Shock Drowning

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked. This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

Electrical Safety Foundation International president Brett Brenner said, “although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of electric shock drowning.” A 21-year-old Illinois man died in 2015 when touching a dock ladder at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Additionally, there were at least two fatalities in Kentucky in 2013, and a pair of deaths in both Missouri and Tennessee during the Fourth of July holiday in 2012. Further, electric shock drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

While a lack of awareness persists about the dangers of electric shock drowning, positive strides are being taken to combat the problem. In Tennessee, state legislators passed the Noah Dean and Nate Act in 2014, which protects state residents from electric shock injuries and drowning deaths near marinas and boat docks. The bill is named in memory of 10-year-old Noah Dean Winstead and 11-year-old Nate Lynam, who died from electrical injuries they suffered on July 4, 2012, at a marina in Tennessee. Jessica Winstead, Noah Dean’s mother, was the driving force behind the bill as a result of her tireless crusade to prevent similar tragedies from occurring. An inspection following the tragic incident found that the marina did not

have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Under the “Noah Dean and Nate Act,” Tennessee marinas must install ground fault protection, post notices about the danger of electrical leakage into waters surrounding a marina, and undergo a safety inspection conducted by the state fire marshal between Jan. 1, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2017, and every five years thereafter. The law went into effect April 1, 2015. A similar law was passed in West Virginia in 2013 following the death of Michael Cunningham, three years after he passed away at the age of 15, as well as in Arkansas in 2012 after several electrocutions near docks there and in surrounding states.

The 2011 National Electrical Code addresses the dangers in marinas and boat yards by requiring the main overcurrent protective device to be GFCI-protected. However, this only applies to installations and inspections, which are recommended annually but not enforced.

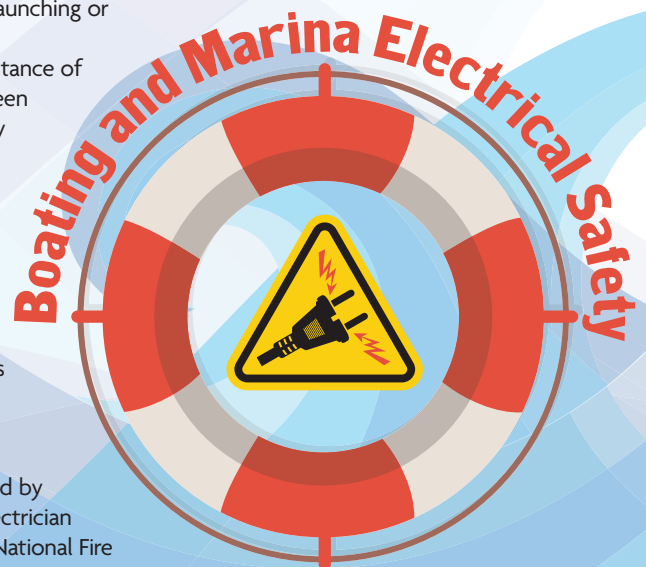
Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

- ▶ Don’t swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.
- ▶ Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- ▶ If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
- ▶ Have your boat’s electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire

Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.

- ▶ Have GFCIs installed on your boat and test them once a month.
- ▶ Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- ▶ Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- ▶ Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
- ▶ Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- ▶ Electric shock drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas. Have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa, or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

For ESFI’s complete collection of boating and marina safety resources, visit www.esfi.org.



Introducing SmartHub

Simple. Safe. Secure. Smart.



Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative is excited to introduce members to SmartHub—a new **FREE** tool that puts the power of data in your hands. This service will allow you to access billing and account information and manage your account from the convenience of your smartphone, tablet or PC.

SmartHub delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to check usage, communicate with us, or make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button.

Call us with any questions about this new service at 785-478-3444.



How do I get started?

- ▶ When you log in to E-Bill after April 25, you will notice a new look and new features.
 - ▶ **Current E-Bill users** will still use the same email and password that you have always used, but the login screen will have a new look. If you have your login page bookmarked, be sure to update that bookmark the first time you login to SmartHub. You will also need to add the following SmartHub email address to your approved e-mail list so that you will receive important information about your payment transactions courier-no-reply@smarthub.coop.
 - ▶ **New users** can visit the Kaw Valley website at www.kve.coop and click on the click to pay link, then register as a new user.

How do I get the app for SmartHub?

- ▶ Install the **FREE** SmartHub app available in your mobile app store.
- ▶ Find Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative by location or name under service provider in the settings menu.
- ▶ Current E-Bill users can access their account by logging in with their current username and password. If you are a new user, click New User and register for an account.
- ▶ Start using your app. The app will prompt you with directions.



View your bill.

Access your billing and payment history and make payments on a secure location.

Manage your account.

Keep your account information updated, store payment options and track your electricity usage.

Communicate.

Send messages directly to the Kaw Valley staff and report an outage.