



**BLUESTEM  
BLUESTEM**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

www.bluestemelectric.com

February 2007

# Bluestem NEWS

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## Bluestem Annual Meeting is Next Month!

The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., Annual Meeting will be held on March 12, 2007, at the Riley County High School in Riley. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be sent in March.

## Bluestem Elections Held

BEC members of the respective districts elected the following cooperative members by mail ballot in December 2006.

### District 1 & 2

POSITION AT LARGE, THREE YR. TERM

Robert Ohlde, Linn

### District 3

POSITION 2, THREE YR. TERM

Dean Blanka, Wamego

### District 3 & 4

POSITION AT LARGE, THREE YR. TERM

Delbert Eichman, St. George

Happy Valentines Day!  
Wednesday, Feb. 14

## Rundle Retires After 35 Years



Larry Rundle

Larry Rundle began working for C&W Rural Electric Cooperative (C&W) in 1971.

He worked for C&W through December 1998.

Rundle then

continued his career working for Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BEC) which was formed through the consolidation of C&W and PR&W

### Jingle Bell Rock FOUND By Bluestem-East Lineman

Dary Roeser, journeyman lineman for Bluestem East, and his girlfriend, Miranda Bailey, both of Wamego, were the lucky finders of the treasured "Jingle Bell Rock" sponsored by Manhattan radio station B104.7 and K-ROCK.

They found the rock on Friday December 15 at 8 a.m. The two found it behind a piece of limestone by the entrance to Bluemont Park in Manhattan.

Roeser had taken the day off work to look for the rock with Bailey. He doubted that they had actually found

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Rundle served both C&W and BEC as the Operations Superintendent. The BEC Board of Trustees, Management Staff and Employees will honor him with a community coffee at Mac's Restaurant on February 2, 2007, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Please stop by and thank him for his dedication in helping to provide electric service to the rural areas of Kansas for the past 35 years.

*Congratulations Larry!*

the real Jingle Bell Rock, until he took it to show his Dad.

In 2004, his Dad also found the rock, so

he was sure of what it looked like. Roeser and Bailey earned \$4,000 in prizes for putting the clues together and finding the rock.



Dary Roeser and Miranda Bailey with the Jingle Bell Rock.

### NOTICE: The Due Date Has Changed!

The bill(s) you will receive around February 24, 2007, is to be paid on or before March 13, 2007.

As stated in previous editions of "Bluestem News," we are moving away from a "turn-around" or delayed billing to a timelier billing. To accomplish this transition, we are gradually moving the due date up each month over three of the lowest-bill months. This March 13<sup>th</sup> due date is the first due date change in that transition schedule.

The following chart details future changes. Once the transition is completed, the final due date will be the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this transition.

| 2007 Planned Dates for Transition |             |                |          |          |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Usage Month                       | Meters Read | Bills Received | Due Date | ACH Date |
| December                          | 1/1         | 1/29           | 2/20     | 2/12     |
| January                           | 2/1         | 2/24           | 3/13     | 3/13     |
| February                          | 3/1         | 3/19           | 4/3      | 4/3      |
| March                             | 4/1         | 4/12           | 4/25     | 4/25     |
| April                             | 5/1         | 5/12           | 5/25     | 5/25     |

# KEPCo & Bluestem Electric Revise Rebate Program

At its December 2006 meeting, the KEPCo Board of Trustees voted to revise KEPCo's current rebate program. KEPCo is Bluestem Cooperative's wholesale power supplier and the wholesale power supplier for 18 other rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

Energy conservation and energy efficiency are initiatives that your electric cooperative supports. Through conservation and efficiency measures, less energy is consumed and therefore, less energy is required to be produced. The reduction in the production and consumption of energy lowers the energy bill to your cooperative and

ultimately to you, our member.

Conservation and efficiency are the emphasis of the new rebate program. To qualify for any of the rebates, the appliance must meet minimum energy efficiency performance standards detailed below. These new standards are slightly higher than the required industry minimums.

The new program will go into effect July 1, 2007.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at your appropriate office. In Wamego contact (785) 456-2212 or (800) 558-1580. In Clay Center call (785) 632-3111 or (800) 297-8725.



**Providing the  
Connection to Safety**

Thousands of people are injured each year in electrical accidents and fires—often with fatal results. The vast majority of electrical accidents can be prevented if you understand the dangers and steps you can take to be safe around electricity.

Safe Electricity is a high-quality educational public awareness program with the goal of increasing electric safety awareness to our members, thus reducing accidents. Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. has recently joined this nationwide program making Safe Electricity's valuable information available to you.

"We are very excited to provide the Safe Electricity program to our members," Ron Dickey, Member Services Manager, said. "The program provides vital safety information in articles, activities and games making the information easy to access and understand for all ages."

Safe Electricity offers timely information on the safe use of electricity, with specific programs designed for homeowners, young people, contractors, educators and those in the agribusiness industry.

The website provides information and examples of hazardous situations that are encountered each day at home, work and play. The latest additions include interactive safety games and activities for children and additional teacher resources such as lesson plans and classroom experiments, which meet National Science Education standards.

For more information about the program or to access all of the great information that Safe Electricity has to offer, simply click on the Safe Electricity link on our webpage at [www.bluestemelectric.com](http://www.bluestemelectric.com).

## Rebates are offered for the following improvements:

### Water Heater Rebate

- Less than 60 gallons, must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .93
- 60 gallons or greater, must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .91

#### **Rebate amounts:**

- \$75 for electric to electric upgrade
- \$125 for a non-lifetime water heater on new construction or replacing gas with electric
- \$175 for a lifetime water heater

### Electric Heat Systems Rebate

#### **- Air Source Heat Pump**

- Minimum unit size of two tons
- Must have a minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14.
- Must have a minimum Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.2

#### **Rebate amounts:**

- \$100 per ton for a 14 SEER
- \$150 per ton for a 15 SEER
- \$200 per ton for 16 SEER and above

#### **- Ground Source Heat Pump**

- Minimum unit size of two tons
- Open loop – Must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 16.2
- Closed loop – Must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.3 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 14.1

#### **Rebate amount:**

- \$125 per one-half ton

**Note:** Electric resistance heat will no longer qualify for a rebate.

**Manhattan Home Show**

**February 17-18, 2007**

**1221 Westloop Plaza (the old Water's True Value Building), Manhattan**

**Please visit the Bluestem Electric booth!**