



BLUESTEM

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

www.bluestemelectric.com

July 2007

Bluestem NEWS

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Bluestem Electric's 2007 Summer Interns

Bluestem is proud to welcome Travis Blackwood, Deyton Hager, Tyler Huninghake, and Gabriel Speicher as summer interns at the cooperative.

Travis Blackwood is summer intern at Bluestem West and will work with the Clay Center line crews.

He is the son of Jeff and Darcy Blackwood of Clay Center. Blackwood has two brothers and two sisters. He grew up on the family farm in the Clay Center area. Blackwood is a 2006 graduate of Clay Center Community High School.

He plans to attend Pratt Community College Electric Power & Distribution Program this fall. His hobbies are riding four-wheelers and hanging out with friends.

Deyton Hager will intern at Bluestem East and will work with the line crews in Wamego.

He graduated from Norton High School. He is the son of Terry and Mary Ann Hager of Norton. He has three children, Steph, 12, Alec, 11, and Riley, 9.

He is currently enrolled at the Manhattan Area Technical College in the Electric Power and Distribution Program. He will graduate in December with his Associates Degree.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing, mountain biking and softball.

Tyler Huninghake summer intern at Bluestem West and will be working with the Clay Center line crews.

He graduated from Frankfort High School in 2006. He is the son of John and Ann Huninghake of Frankfort. He has one older brother, Ryan, and a younger sister, Emily.

Huninghake is currently enrolled in the Manhattan Area Technical College Electric Power and Distribution Program. In his spare time he enjoys watching and playing sports.

Gabriel Speicher will intern at Bluestem East and will work with line crews in Wamego.

He graduated from Blue Valley North High School in Kansas City.



Travis Blackwood
BEC West



Deyton Hager
BEC East



Tyler Huninghake
BEC West



Gabriel Speicher
BEC East

Speicher lives in Olsburg with his wife, Rachel, and their children, Jano, 9, Elsa, 5, and Lola, 2.

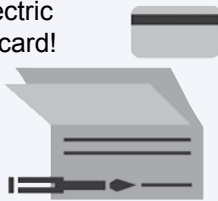
He is currently enrolled at the Manhattan Area Technical College in the Electric Power and Distribution Program.

His hobbies are sports, fishing, chopping firewood and spending time with family and friends.

Save a Check, Save a Stamp

Pay your electric bill with a credit card! Bluestem will accept Visa and MasterCard for those that like to use their credit card to pay their bills.

Call BEC at 1-800-558-1580 Wamego or 1-800-297-8725 Clay Center.



Separating Myths from

In the face of rising energy costs, members are looking for ways to reduce their energy use. Although there are a lot of good ideas out there, there also are a lot of misconceptions about what is really effective.

Myth: Screen savers reduce energy use.

Fact: Screen savers do not cut energy use. They were developed to

mitigate a problem called "screen burn-in" that can occur in both regular and LCD computer monitors and television screens. Burn-in occurs when an image appears on a monitor for a long period of time.

It takes just as much energy to display a screen saver on your screen as it does to display any other program. To save energy, adjust your computer's

Improve Your Air Conditioner's Efficiency

Air conditioners use a lot of electricity, the most in a summertime heat wave. Without regular service your air conditioner's efficiency decrease by half, especially when it works overtime in the summer heat.

It is best to hire an air-conditioning technician to perform an annual tune-up of your air conditioner. This service is usually under \$100, but can reduce your cooling costs by 5 percent or more.

Here are some maintenance tips that should be performed by a professional:

- Inspect the ductwork for loose joints and other leaks.
- Check hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensation tube is draining freely.
- Clean the blower so that it can move air more efficiently.
- Oil the motors, and check the belts for tightness and wear.
- Verify the airflow by measurement. Improper airflow can affect



efficiency.

- Clean the indoor evaporator and outdoor condenser coil. If it doesn't have an access panel, have one installed.

- Inspect, clean or replace filters monthly.
- Check the refrigerant charge and adjust if needed. Remember that the law requires refrigerant to be recaptured when units are recharged.
- Straighten any bent fins on the condenser and evaporator coils.
- Inspect electric terminals.
- Clean and tighten connections.
- Inspect the thermostat to ensure that it provides a reliable reading.
- Install a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature automatically. This thermostat increases the temperature setting while you're gone and then returns the home to a more comfortable setting before you return.

Ervin Gnadt Celebrates 25 Years with Bluestem

Ervin Gnadt has served as a District 4 Trustee for the cooperative for the past 25 years.

He has held various officer positions on the previous PR&W and now Bluestem Board of Trustees.

He currently serves as Vice President for the cooperative Board. Ervin and his wife, Marleen, are from the Alma area.

The cooperative recognized his years of service at the June 18 Board meeting.



BEC Trustee Ervin Gnadt (right) receives his 25th anniversary watch from President, Robert Ohlde.

Facts about Energy Use

settings to automatically shut the monitor down after a specified period of idle time, or simply turn off the monitor if you are not going to be using it.

Myth: Surge protectors reduce energy use.

Fact: A few surge protector manufacturers make energy-saving claims for their products, despite the fact that such claims were proven false.

There is simply no opportunity for these devices to reduce energy use because they are dormant more than 99.999 percent of the time. They are active only when a high-voltage spike occurs.

Surge protectors are an effective way of protecting your electrical equipment against voltage spikes, but not to cut energy costs.

CFL 101

How do you clean up a broken compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL)?

The greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from the glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to people should a bulb break if it is cleaned up properly:

- Sweep up, do not vacuum, the glass fragments and particles.
- Place the broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any remaining stray shards or particles. Put the paper towel in the sealed plastic bag when you are finished.
- If weather permits, open the windows and ventilate the room.

What should you do with a CFL when it burns out?

Like paint, batteries, and other hazardous items, CFLs should be disposed of properly.

You can search for disposal options online by using your zip code at www.earth911.com or calling (877) EARTH-911.

Check with your local waste management agency. If a disposal site is not available in your area, we suggest placing the burned-out or broken bulb in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before being placed in the trash. Never send a CFL or other mercury-containing product to an incinerator.

The benefits of CFLs greatly outweigh the risks. There is only a very small amount of mercury in CFLs, hardly enough to worry about. On average, the bulbs contain five milligrams of mercury. Compare that to 3,000 milligrams of mercury in older thermostats and 500 milligrams of mercury in a mercury thermometer. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, accessible change every American can make to save energy and help the environment.