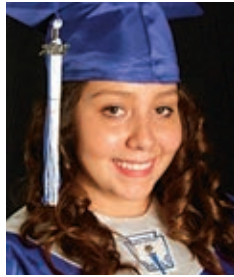




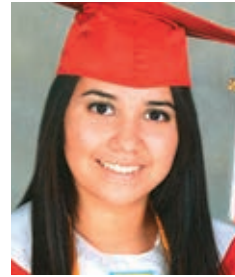
**KYE BURRIS**  
Jourdanton High School



**AMANDA CAMPOS**  
Somerset High School



**HILLARY GILLIN**  
McMullen County High School



**AMBER RAE HENICKE**  
Three Rivers High School



**SHELBY MARTINEZ**  
Poteet High School



**CHRISTINA LYNN MCRAE**  
Poteet High School



**CLAIRE RAABE**  
Poth High School



**PAIGE SMITH**  
Pleasanton High School



**LISA TITZMAN**  
East Central High School



**MATTHEW WINN**  
Karnes City High School



## 10 Students Win Scholarships from KEC

**K**arnes Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the recipients of KEC's Scholarship Program for graduating 2012 high school seniors. This year, the scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000 each and were awarded to high school graduating seniors in Karnes Electric's service area. To be eligible, the student must be a child of an active member receiving electric service from Karnes Electric Cooperative and have the desire to further his or her education.

This year, 10 recipients were chosen from a field of highly qualified candidates. This award will assist these students in making their dreams of further education a reality:

**KYE BURRIS**      *Jourdanton High School*  
**HILLARY GILLIN**      *McMullen County High School*  
**SHELBY MARTINEZ**      *Poteet High School*  
**CLAIRE RAABE**      *Poth High School*  
**LISA TITZMAN**      *East Central High School*

**AMANDA CAMPOS**      *Somerset High School*  
**AMBER RAE HENICKE**      *Three Rivers High School*  
**CHRISTINA LYNN MCRAE**      *Poteet High School*  
**PAIGE SMITH**      *Pleasanton High School*  
**MATTHEW WINN**      *Karnes City High School*

Karnes Electric Cooperative wishes to congratulate these students on their accomplishments and for receiving these scholarships. Congratulations and best wishes for the future endeavors of each and every senior of 2012.



▲ Attendees of all ages await the start of the meeting.

Director David C. Davidson, right, was honored for 20 years of service. ►



Margaret Moczygamba accepted a Resolution of Appreciation from Board President Arlon Retzlloff on behalf of her husband, Alfred, who retired after 39 years of service on the board. ►



## Karnes EC Hosts 2012 Annual Meeting

**K**arnes Electric Cooperative celebrated 74 years of providing electric utility service to members at its annual membership meeting held June 4 at the Karnes City High School Auditorium. Members and guests gathered to exercise their rights as member-owners of their cooperative and have a chance at receiving one of 64 door prizes.

KEC Board President Arlon Retzlloff called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and Director David C. Davidson opened with the invocation. KEC Secretary-Treasurer Larry Schendel presented the Financial Report and noted that the cooperative's 2011 Annual Report can be found in the June edition of Texas Co-op Power.

Schendel reported that the cooperative remains financially sound. Karnes Electric Cooperative ended the year with an equity ratio of 53.1 percent and total margins of \$4,629,277. The cooperative finished the year with a total outstanding long-term debt of \$30,639,902 and total assets of \$94,028,531.

The cooperative refunded capital credits totaling \$314,503. This increases the amount of total capital credits refunded to members to \$4,309,989. Schendel reminded those present that "This is a benefit you enjoy for being a

member-owner of this cooperative."

Retzlloff presented the President's Report and again focused on the looming electricity generation shortage facing our country. Noting that tighter government regulations and the high cost of complying with these regulations is making it hard for many coal-fired plants to stay in operation. Stating that today's power generators must not only comply with regulations adopted by the EPA, and as interpreted by the Clean Air Act, but they must also comply with court decisions on how these rules should apply.

Retzlloff reported that the board of our power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative, has decided not to build the Coletto Creek Unit II Project even after receiving an approved air permit in 2010 that would have allowed the start of construction of the plant. This decision was made based on the facts that natural gas prices are at a 10-year low, the current administration's position on fossil fuels is uncertain, and the EPA's rulemaking continues to make the situation difficult. In light of all this, the STEC board is currently reviewing its options for adding gas-fired generation to help with the need for new generation.

The focus of the meeting shifted to the General Man-

## KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



◀ Director Larry R. Schendel, right, received recognition for his 40 years of service.

Employee service award recipients were, from left, back: Rudy Torres, Gary Pawelek, Russell Korzekwa, Sonny Barrientez and Teren Jurgajtis; and front: Donna Pawelek, Olga Serna and Rebecca Mueller. ▼



◀ Members gather at the registration table.



ager's Report with General Manager Leroy T. Skloss thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

Skloss took the opportunity to highlight the activity in Karnes Electric's service territory. He commented on the effect that the drought of 2011 had on the membership and employees of KEC. While the drought led to increased electrical usage and expense for our membership, it actually turned out to be a plus for the cooperative's sales and revenue. But the increased stress on the state's power supply put everyone at risk of rolling blackouts.

Skloss then talked about the effect that the Eagle Ford oil activity is having on KEC's system. KEC added four substations from our power supplier STEC in the past 12 months and is planning an additional five in the next 12 months. In addition to the new substations, 69 miles of new line and 726 new connections were added. Member cooperation by way of granting right-of-way easements has been crucial to the cooperative and is therefore appreciated.

Skloss continued his report by stating that over the past 15 years, the cooperative has awarded a total of 150 scholarships totaling \$110,200. He then recognized the 2012 winners of 10 \$1,000 Karnes Electric Scholarships: Kye Burriss of Jourdanton High School, Amanda Campos of Somerset High School, Hillary Gillin of McMullen County High School, Amber Rae Henicke of Three Rivers High School, Shelby Martinez and Christina Lynn McRae of Poteet High

School, Claire Raabe of Poth High School, Paige Smith of Pleasanton High School, Lisa Titzman of East Central High School and Matthew Winn of Karnes City High School.

The General Manager's Report concluded with the recognition of employees for their dedicated service to Karnes Electric Cooperative: Olga Serna, 45 years; Donna Pawelek and Peter Scheffler, 25 years; Gary Pawelek, 20 years; Rebecca Mueller and Sonny Barrientez, 15 years; Russell Korzekwa, 10 years; and Rudy Torres and Teren Jurgajtis, five years.

Director Larry R. Schendel was recognized for 40 years of service, and Director David C. Davidson was recognized for 20 years of service to the cooperative.

Skloss also recognized Alfred Moczygemba, who served as director of District 5 for 39 years. His wife, Margaret Moczygemba, accepted a Resolution of Appreciation from Retzloff in recognition of her husband's dedication and service to the cooperative. He is wished well in his retirement.

After a brief intermission, Shawn P. St. Clair, KEC attorney, gave the Report of Election announcing that District 2 Director Shirley Hofmann of Runge and District 6 Director David C. Davidson of Poteet had been re-elected to the board of directors and that Paul T. Brysch Jr. of Karnes City was elected to represent District 5.

We thank all members and family who attended this year's meeting and for making the year such a success. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

# Beat the Heat

*Keep your home cool and energy bills lower with savings tips*

BY MAGEN HOWARD

A cold glass of lemonade. A shade tree near a rushing brook. A paper fan swished back and forth.

The advent of air conditioning replaced these time-tested methods of staying cool. But with quick relief from stifling heat also came higher electric bills. Now, the U.S. Depart-

with an Energy Star label, which means the product has met specific energy-efficiency standards set by the federal government. Room units are about 10 percent more efficient than their non-Energy Star counterparts, while central units are about 14 percent more efficient.

Once you've determined whether your air conditioner is the correct size

and program it—a step many people fail to take.

## Seal Air Leaks

A home that feels cold and drafty in winter becomes hot and stuffy in summer. Taking time to seal air leaks in your house will offer lower electric bills year-round.

Add caulk and weatherstripping around doors and windows, and check where walls meet ceilings and floors. Pay particular attention to recessed canister lights and electric outlets. Check air barriers that are working in conjunction with your insulation. Sealing the cracks and joists in your attic will help your insulation do its job.

## Seal Ductwork

Ductwork could be the most important piece of equipment to seal. If it's exposed, you can do this yourself with a paintbrush and mastic, which you can purchase at any home improvement store. If ductwork is not exposed, hire a professional contractor.

Leaky ductwork will make your air conditioning system work harder than it should, driving up your electric bills and wearing out HVAC equipment.

## Landscaping

Planting a tree or climbing vine not only adds a little flavor to your home's landscape, but it also can cool your house when the sun beats down. Trees in the right spot can decrease your home's energy use by up to 25 percent, according to the DOE.

Plant deciduous trees—those that lose their leaves every year—on the south and west sides of your home, and you'll gain shade in the summer and sunshine in the winter.

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*Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



Regular maintenance for your air conditioner, including checking for a clean filter, will help it run more efficiently.

ment of Energy estimates that 9 percent of Americans' household energy costs are dedicated to cooling.

But you don't have to sacrifice comfort and convenience to save on your bill. All it takes is smart planning, a little elbow grease and dedication to beating the heat—and high bills.

## Air Conditioning Units

Logic would seem to dictate that a larger air conditioning unit would work better. However, a unit that's too large for its space will operate inefficiently and fail to control humidity. Whether you have a window unit or central air, correct sizing is key.

If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, be sure to purchase one

or have picked out a new one, adjust the settings to maximize efficiency. Use the "auto" function instead of running the fan all the time. Regular maintenance is a good idea, as is changing the air filter at least monthly.

Also, set your thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. The smaller the difference between indoor and outdoor air, the lower your cooling costs will be.

## Programmable Thermostats

Speaking of thermostats, a programmable model could help you save big bucks. It can automatically raise the temperature during times of the day you specify. But if you purchase one, it's important to take the next step

## Texas Division of Emergency Management

### Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

#### Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30

Residents of Texas Gulf Coast EVACUATION ZONES should BEGIN NOW by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit and learning evacuation routes well in advance.



- **If you have special health care needs, register by dialing 2-1-1:** Gulf Coast residents with special health care needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register for assisted transportation in advance by dialing 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 transportation assistance registry must be dialed IN ADVANCE. It is confidential. Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance.
- **If you need transportation, register with 2-1-1:** If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register IN ADVANCE for assisted transportation by dialing 2-1-1.
- **Evacuation zone information:** If you are interested in registering and you want to find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1 for information.

#### Hurricane Preparedness tips online:

Texas Division of Emergency Management website: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem)

FEMA website: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Red Cross website: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

## División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas

### Directrices para Huracanes

#### Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

Los residentes de zonas de evacuación de la Costa del Golfo de Texas deberán empezar ahora a hacer un plan de evacuación, preparando un equipo de emergencia y aprendiendo bien las rutas de evacuación por adelantado.



- **Si usted tiene necesidad especial de asistencia médica, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1:** Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia médica (incluyendo los que son incapacitados o médicamente frágil) que viven en zonas de evacuación y no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación deben registrarse por adelantado para la asistencia de transporte llamando al 2-1-1. El registro de asistencia de transporte se debe hacer por adelantado llamando al 2-1-1. Es confidencial. No espere hasta que una tormenta esté en el Golfo para registrarse para la ayuda.
- **Si usted necesita transporte, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1.** Si usted no tiene un coche ni otro tipo de vehículo, y usted no puede obtener transporte con amigos, vecinos o familiares, regístrese por adelantado para su traslado e llamando al 2-1-1.
- **Información sobre la zona de evacuación:** Si usted está interesado en registrarse y quiere determinar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación, llame a 2-1-1.

#### Para mayor información sobre La Preparación para la Temporada de Huracanes en el Internet:

<http://www.listo.gov/>

<http://www.cruzrojaamericana.org/>

[www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem)

# Watch for Signs of Heat Illnesses

**W**ith the onset of summer comes lots of fun outdoor activities—whether you're lying by the pool or playing on a baseball field. Keep heat stress at bay by knowing how to prevent heat-related illnesses and recognize the symptoms in yourself and others.

CDC/AMANDA MILLS



When working or playing outside in the hot sun, be alert for signs of illnesses like heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

## Heat Stroke

The most serious of heat illnesses, heat stroke can be deadly and swift. Your body temperature could rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or more in as little as 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke happens when your body's temperature rises rapidly and you cannot sweat quickly enough to cool off. Symptoms include hot, dry skin or the opposite—profuse sweating—hallucinations, chills, throbbing headache, confusion or dizziness and slurred speech.

If you see someone with the symptoms of heat stroke, immediately call 911 and move the person to a shady area. Try misting the person with cold

water, soaking his or her clothes and fanning the body.

## Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is the result of heavy sweating—extreme loss of salt and water. People prone to heat exhaustion include the elderly, those with high blood pressure or people who work in hot conditions. Besides excessive sweating, symptoms include extreme weakness or fatigue, dizziness and confusion, nausea, clammy skin, muscle cramps and shallow, rapid breathing.

If a person suffers from heat exhaustion, move him or her to a shaded or air conditioned area. The victim should drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages and take a cool shower or bath.

## Heat Syncope

Sunbathers may be prone to heat syncope, which is dizziness or fainting after lying (or standing) for long periods of time.

Dehydration can contribute to an episode of heat syncope, so keep that water bottle handy when you head to the beach.

If you feel dizzy after lying for a long time, sit or lie back down in a cool place and sip on a cool beverage, such as water, sports drinks or clear juice.

## Heat Cramps

Folks who work or play sports outside in the heat may suffer from heat cramps, which result from low salt levels after heavy sweating. Stay alert if you feel cramping because it could be a symptom of heat exhaustion. Heat cramps usually are felt in the arms, legs or abdomen.

# Summer Savings

- When the outside temperature cools off at night, turn off your air conditioner and open your windows. When you wake in the morning, shut the windows and blinds to capture the cool air.

- Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows.

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer.

- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and will result in unnecessary expense.

- Using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioner will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort.

- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room.

- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity.

- 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 needed.

- Vacuum air registers regularly to remove any dust buildup and don't block vents with furniture or other objects.

- On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven or grill outside.

- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Consider air drying both dishes and clothing.

ISTOCKPHOTO



Use ceiling fans to keep you cool and save energy.

# Make Safety a Priority

*Take care during summer home improvement projects*

If summer weather is sprouting thoughts of home improvement projects, you are not alone. Rising temperatures traditionally give rise to more remodeling, repairs, maintenance, landscaping and construction projects both inside and outside the home.

In an effort to make sure the growth in home improvement projects and maintenance work doesn't result in increased injuries, Karnes Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity urge all do-it-yourselfers to take precautions, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines.

Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have one. It's also a good idea to have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry.

Safety tips to keep in mind include:

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines. Leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

■ If your projects include digging, such as for building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 before you begin to find out whether there are any underground utilities. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.

■ Mixing electricity and water is dangerous. If it's raining or the

ground is wet, don't use electric power tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

■ Make certain that home electrical systems and wiring are adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions or remodeling projects. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics.

*Source: [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)*



**Adding a fence or repairing a deck? Be sure to call 811 first to make sure there are no underground utilities that might get in the way.**



## **KARNES** ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**P.O. Box 7**  
**Karnes City, TX 78118**

**LEROY T. SKLOSS**  
General Manager

**OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS**  
**(830) 780-3952**  
Karnes City Headquarters Office

**(830) 569-5538**  
Pleasanton District Office

**1-888-807-3952**  
Toll-Free (Karnes City)

**TO REPORT A POWER  
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AND ON WEEKENDS  
AND HOLIDAYS:**

Coy City, Ecleto, Floresville,  
Gillette, Goliad, Karnes City,  
Kenedy, Runge, Three Rivers,  
Tilden and surrounding areas  
**(830) 780-3952**

Charlotte, Christine,  
Pleasanton, Poteet, Verdi  
and surrounding areas  
**(830) 569-5538**

# DON'T SWEAT IT

*Stay cool in the kitchen*

You don't have to stick your head in the freezer to keep cool when preparing a meal this summer. Follow these tips to keep your home—and your head—cool.

1. Try to cook on the stovetop, in a microwave oven or with a toaster oven as much as possible. A conventional oven produces lots of unwanted heat.
2. Summer is a great time to introduce your family to an abundance of fresh sandwiches, veggie-filled salads and chilled soups.
3. Grill more: Cooking outside is an automatic way to keep your house cooler. Cook your meal outdoors and enjoy a nice, grilled meal indoors.
4. Don't cook every night. Take one day to cook components for several meals and freeze them.
5. No-bake cakes, fruit cups and trifles make delicious desserts without the heat of an oven.
6. Use that slow cooker. Not only does it use very little electricity, it also gives off very little heat!
7. Let your dishes air dry. Although most dishwashers don't give off a great deal of heat, when the temperatures are up, even a little can feel like too much. Try turning the dishwasher off and opening the door at the end of the rinse cycle to let dishes get a little fresh air.

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**karnesec.net**



**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

The offices of Karnes Electric will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.



Don't let your summer electric bills skyrocket with the temperatures. There's plenty you can do to save energy and money. Try raising your thermostat a couple of degrees and make sure you can't see daylight around doors and windows. Ceiling fans are a great low-cost way to move air so you don't keep the air conditioner running all day. You can improve your landscape and add shade for your house with a new tree.