cve@caneyvalley.com
www.caneyvalley.com
For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

CONTACT US

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
620-758-2262
Fax: 620-758-2926
cve@caneyvalley.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for April is $.0055/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional $5.50 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power suppliers. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale costs, and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

Thank a Lineworker

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Thursday, April 18

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause power outages.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers complete a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

SAFETY COMES RIRST

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- Install power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.

Continued on page 12B ▶

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home. Plant evergreen trees and shrubs to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**

Thank a Lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

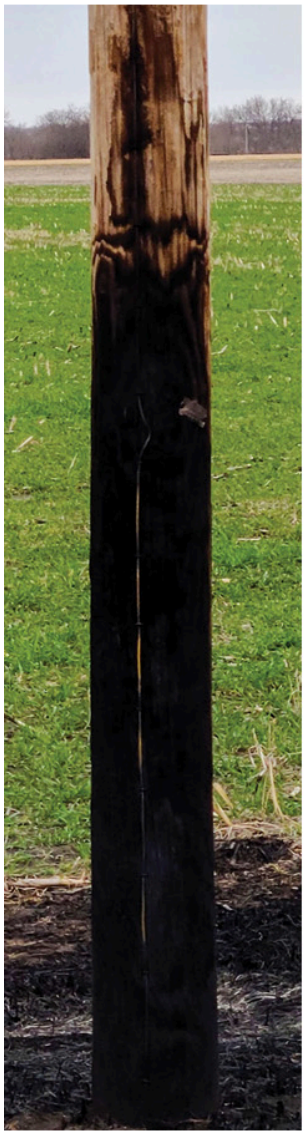
Continued from page 12A ▶

- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

Your cooperative linemen take pride in doing their best to provide you the most reliable electric service possible.



Remember to Use Caution When Burning

Each spring, all across Caney Valley Electric's service territory, members prepare to burn pasture for the upcoming spring grass season.

Every spring Caney Valley Electric's employees witness damage being done to Caney Valley's poles and equipment by "controlled" burns. Please be aware that burning or even scorching a pole will compromise the integrity of the structure.

Power poles are treated with a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is, in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Caney Valley reminds members to plan burning before you begin. It is cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost may vary from $1,000 to more than $2,000 depending on the structure of the pole and equipment. It only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative.

Burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clear the vegetation/weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and Caney Valley Electric. **DO NOT SPRAY WATER CLOSE TO THE CONDUCTORS!** Water and electricity do not mix! This may cause a short circuit. You and/or the firefighters could be in the path of that current and serious injury or death may result.

Report any fire-damaged pole to Caney Valley Electric immediately. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later.

A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned, or even killed. This carelessness could cost a life.

Before burning, check the property for electrical equipment — like this pad-mounted transformer — and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages.

Students Selected for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

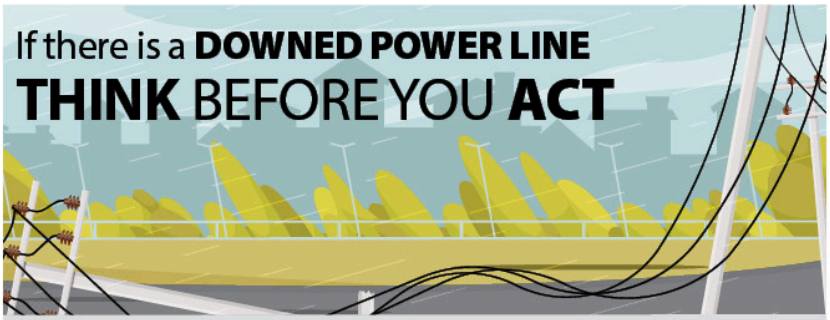
Congratulations **CLANCY CUMMINGS** and **KASE KILL**, both of Howard; and **NATALIE SHELTON**, Maple City; who will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July.


Clancy Cummings


Kase Kill


Natalie Shelton

They will join other high school students from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma for a week-long experience to improve leadership skills and learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy issues, safety and interpersonal communications.



An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to many reasons including a severe storm, car accident or public damage. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:

- Consider all power lines energized and deadly.
- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Call 911 or the utility to report the downed line.
- Do not approach the line or try to move it with another object.
- Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.
- Do not approach the scene.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Turn around and go another way.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.

- Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.
- If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.
- You cannot tell if a power line is live just by looking at it.
- Even if a power line appears coated, it is never safe to go near it.

While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are dangerous. NEVER APPROACH A DOWNED POWER LINE.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

To the Top!

Training Stages for Electric Lineworkers

Known for their strength and agility, lineworkers are dedicated to ensuring our communities have reliable power. Safety is always top priority on the job, which is why lineworkers spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

Here's a look at the career progression of a lineworker.

4 Crew Leader

A crew leader is an advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors and directing daily activities for crews.

3 Journeyman Lineworker

Post-apprenticeship and with roughly 7,000-plus hours of training under their belts, journeyman lineworkers are fully trained in their field. They repair, update and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other electrical equipment.

2 Apprentice Lineworker

Before reaching lineworker status, they are required to work as an apprentice. Apprentice lineworkers earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.

1 Groundperson/ Linehelper

Many lineworkers begin their career as a groundperson or linehelper. They assist line crews with tools, keeping job sites safe and operating smaller equipment.

Regardless of stage, all lineworkers continue education and training throughout their career. Training and testing requirements vary from utility to utility.

Annual Right-of-Way Herbicide Spraying

Craig Lampson
Line Superintendent

As part of the cooperative's ongoing program to control harmful vegetation near our power lines, we have contracted with Poor Boy Tree Service Inc. of Fairplay, Missouri, to apply herbicide along our rights-of-way in 2024. Lines off our Sedan substation are scheduled to be covered over the next few months. This includes most of the northeast parts of Chautauqua County from the Elk County line down to Sedan. Also, areas east of Sedan and west of Sedan to Wauneta will be covered.

Poor Boy's two-man crews will be applying high-volume foliar spray herbicide directly to small trees, saplings and harmful re-growth that has occurred since the lines were cleared by tree cutting. They will be using the minimum amount of herbicide judged to be effective and will be targeting specific plants that pose a hazard to the electric system. You should expect to see their pickup and/or ATV with spray equipment working along the rights-of-way under Caney Valley's electric lines.

Caney Valley Electric will be sending out letters to known landowners or members where we propose to treat our rights-of-way. **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR IF YOU DO NOT WANT US TO SPRAY ON YOUR PROPERTY, CONTACT US SO WE CAN DESIGNATE IT AS "DO NOT SPRAY" FOR OUR CONTRACTOR'S CREWS. THE LETTER MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE YOU RECEIVE BEFORE WE START.**

Trees continue to pose the greatest physical obstacle to providing economical and reliable electric power to the consumers on Caney Valley's system. The problems caused by trees and the costs of controlling them are born by all of our members collectively. We appreciate your support of the cooperative's efforts to reduce tree-related problems in a fair and cost-effective manner. If you have any questions about our spraying or line clearing activities, please call us at 800-310-8911 or 620-758-2262.

CRAIG LAMPSON
LINE SUPERINTENDENT

OUTAGES FOR FEB. 2024

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred in February.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
2/7	Howard area	42	1 hr 40 min	Accident west of Howard - wire wrapped up
2/15	North of Sedan	38	30 min	Accident - wire got wrapped up
2/25	NE of Dexter	24	1 hr 10 min	2 arrestors bad
2/27	Otto corner south of Dexter	25	5 hr 10 min	Cause not found

Nondiscrimination STATEMENT

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is a recipient of federal financial assistance from Rural Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Sec'y for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

JANUARY OPERATING STATISTICS

For Month Ending	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	For Month Ending	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	For Month Ending	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Meters Billed	5,240	5,178	Total Revenue	$ 845,159	$ 770,420	Other Expenses	$ 912	$ 300
kWh Purchased	5,838,975	6,658,731	Purchased Power	$ 432,706	$ 492,730	Operating Margins	$ 16,111	$ (113,174)
Cost Per kWh Purchased	0.07397	0.07390	Operating Expenses	$ 277,929	$ 271,012	Non-operating Margins	$ 4,081	$ 10,051
kWh Sold	5,607,823	4,953,515	Depreciation Expenses	$ 72,694	$ 75,077	Total Working Margins	$ 20,191	$ (103,123)
			Interest Expenses	$ 44,809	$ 44,475	Margins Year-to-Date	$ 20,192	$ (103,123)