

Lane-Scott CONNECTIONS

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High Street, Dighton, KS 67839 • Phone 620-397-5327 • www.lanescott.coop

November 2008



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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-Hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

Dighton Students Race at Kansas Speedway



Derek Smith, driving the Dighton High School team's car number 140, prepares to race on the starting grid at the Kansas Speedway.

On October 6, the Kan-Am Electric Challenge gave its participants an opportunity many people only dream about: the chance to race at the Kansas Speedway, the 1.5 mile NA-SCAR track located in Kansas City. The electric car event was the first national competition held in Kansas.

The race, attended by 31 teams from Kansas, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska and Washington, featured 47 cars.

Lane-Scott Electric, Western Cooperative Electric, Midwest Energy, Pioneer Electric Coop-

erative, Victory Electric Cooperative, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, in cooperation with Fort Hays State University, sponsored this exciting event.

“We are proud to be a sponsor of this event,” said Earl Steffens General Manager of Lane-Scott. “Even though the race is competitive, the knowledge and experience gained from these projects is very valuable. Every student involved is a winner.”

The open class entries re-

continued on page 16-B

Funding Climate Change Solutions

Research and development can find solutions to problems that seem unsolvable with current technology. Vast amounts of government funding went into the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb and the Apollo moon missions. A current issue – climate change – could benefit from the same attention.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a utility consortium based in Palo Alto, Calif., that includes electric co-ops, has outlined a framework in which \$30 billion would be invested in climate change research, development, and demonstration projects between now and 2030. Some funding would come from the government, and the rest from utilities and private investors.

The research would aim to reduce carbon emissions by improving technology employed in electricity distribution, transmission, and nuclear and coal generation. Nuclear and coal power form the backbone of the nation's electricity supply, and make up 77 percent of the electric cooperative fuel mix. A central focus of study would be on capturing carbon dioxide gas from coal-fired power plants before it goes up a smokestack, compressing it, and then permanently storing it deep underground.

Revis James, director of EPRI's Energy Technology Assessment Center, remains confident in the approach. "I think there's no question we're going to pull it off," he contends.

Dighton Students Race... Continued

corded the fastest times with Team Electrolite of Portland, ME, setting a new world record by covering 58.2 miles in an hour. Cloud Electric Racing of Woodinville, WA., came in second at 53.2, breaking Team Electrolite's previous world record of 53.16 set in October 2006.

The KAN-AM Electric Challenge is nationally sanctioned by Electrathon America, the national organization that establishes design and racing rules. The cars are single person, lightweight aerodynamic vehicles with three or four wheels that are built by each team. Each car is powered by deep cycle lead acid battery packs not exceeding 67 pounds.

Most teams built the cars from ground up using lightweight components such as aluminum frames and light weight wheels. Motors and controls are generally a smaller version of the same technology used in full size electric vehicles.

The competition, based on time and distance, is won by the

team that completes the most laps in one hour. The cars have three classifications: standard, powered by batteries; experimental, powered at least partially by solar; and open class.

The top three finishers in the high school division standard class included Pomeroy Palmer High School, Pomeroy, IA, 43.5 mph; Kennedy High School, Cedar Rapids, IA, 39 mph; and Scott Community High School, Scott City, 39 mph.

The top three finishers in the high school division experimental class included Scott Community High School, Scott City; Wichita South High School, Wichita; and Ulysses High School, Ulysses.

"As a national event, this race put the spotlight on our students and showed how well they can compete against students from other states like Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri," said Joe Chretien, assistant professor of power and energy at Fort Hays State University. "They also had a chance to test their skills on an

elite NASCAR track, which was obviously a thrill for everyone."

The national event was organized by the Kansas ElectroRally, which has been sanctioning state races since 1997, one in the fall and two in the spring.



The Dighton High School race team. From left: Derek Smith, Casey Beesley, TJ Penka, Matt Jones, Coach Alan Berndt, Jesse Beesley, Kohl Gridley and Dillon Linenberger. Not pictured are Garrett Parker and Seth Shapland.

Make A Difference in Your Energy Future

America's electric cooperatives are facing a huge energy challenge: meeting the nation's growing appetite for energy, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and keeping electric bills affordable.

The time has come for us to ask some tough questions and get some real answers about what our officials and newly elected representatives are doing to help us meet the growing demand for electricity while addressing climate change goals.

You can make a difference by starting a conversation with your elected officials about reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electric power.

"Never underestimate the power of personal contact with policy makers and newly elected members of Congress," Earl Steffens, Lane-Scott's Manager

Take time to talk to your representatives about our energy future and what they are doing to help us keep the lights on and electric bills affordable. Attend rallies and town-hall meetings when members of Congress visit.

The major questions to ask elected officials are:

1. Experts say that our nation's growing electricity

needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation, and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

2. Our country faces a crisis as electricity use increases faster than available supply. I believe that by unleashing American ingenuity we can solve this problem. What are you doing to speed the development of new technology that will allow me to have the electric power I need while meeting national climate policy goals?
3. Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

In addition to personal contact, letters make a difference, too, according to Steffens.

"In this electronic age, it's easy to stay in touch," he notes. "Electric co-op consumers can lead the way in discussing energy issues by going to www.ourenergy.coop, and asking those critical questions."

Meet the Employee



Kevin Bradstreet

Kevin Bradstreet began his duties with Lane-Scott Electric on November 7, 2007.

His job includes meter reading and warehouse duties. Bradstreet and his wife, Mindy, have two children, Kierra, 8, and Kaden, 6.

Before coming to Lane-Scott Electric, Bradstreet worked for Garden City Co-op for 13 years. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys golfing, watching NASCAR and playing sports with his children.

Happy Thanksgiving! Holiday Office Closing



Lane-Scott Electric would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and also remind members that the office will be closed on November 27-28.

We would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Properly seal air leaks, cracks, and openings in your home to reduce heating and cooling costs, improve building durability, and create a healthier indoor environment.

Source: US Department of Energy

Thank You Notes to Lane-Scott

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you for your donation toward our open house and barbecue. We had a wonderful evening serving more than 340 people. As always, we are very thankful for your support of our schools and our community.

Sincerely,

Dighton Elementary School & Lincoln Primary School

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative for sponsoring the award I won for Reserve Grand Champion Showmanship at the dog show during the Lane County Fair.

Sincerely,

Madison O'Brien

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you for sending the thoughtful flowers in honor of Connie. They were a beautiful touch to brighten the day. We also appreciate the kind thoughts and prayers our loved ones have offered in this difficult time. Your support means so much to us.

Thank you again,

The family of Connie Holsteen

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you for putting up my yard light. That should keep the boogie man away.

Sincerely,

Anna L Mollenkamp

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you for the gift certificate, and welcoming us into the community!

Sincerely,

The Lange Family

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

The Committee would like to thank you for your donation to the Brownell Labor Day picnic and parade.

Sincerely,

Brownell Labor Day Committee

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thanks for making Big Truck Night an educational evening for families in our community. Your efforts touched many lives and contributed to making Lane County a great place to raise children.

Sincerely,

Betsy and Raylene, Parents as Teachers

Dear Lane-Scott Electric,

Thank you for your work on our farmstead. It was appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lewis and Carol Rose

