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Alicia Bonesteel, Director of Boards

Our federal and state governments are proposing mandates with time lines to secure alternative renewable resources for electricity generation. Salem Electric and co-ops across the nation are addressing these issues, adopting a national leadership position on renewable energy. Co-ops depend on the special rules and credibility an electric co-op enjoys as a member-owned utility that has community service as its mission. New technologies, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal are being developed across the nation by co-ops. These options don’t have to be the most expensive ones, but they should be the most cost-effective ones. Retail giant, Wal-Mart demands an entire supply of renewable energy in the near future.

The board rate committee will meet with a rate consultant in early August and plans to make a recommendation to the full board later in the month. Please visit the newsletter for more information, or visit salemelectric.com and select “Rates” for historical information on rates.

Online Payment

If you’re looking for an easy and convenient way to pay your electric bill, look no further…. try our online bill pay program. All you have to do is log on to your account through salemelectric.com and select “Online Pay.” You can also vote to receive an electronic bill notification and an electronic version of the monthly newsletter.

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Alicia Bonesteel
Salem Electric

Employee Profile: Chris Jones

Salem native Chris Jones said his way to “Inman school” in Idaho after having a chicken coop to eat meat and garden centers. For nearly five years after high school, the Sprague graduate, who was particularly good in math and science, worked for Albertsons and attained the rank of journeyman meat cutter in the electric industry. With our industry changing rapidly, classes such as these ensure our energy future. Whether it’s renewable energy for schools in Ohio, army bases in Kentucky, the Wal-Mart, or our neighborhood here in Salem, new energy resources are a welcome commodity. Salem Electric is on top of it.

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AUGUST 2006

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Alternative Energy Resources

From a Director…

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Alicia Bonesteel
**Electrical Safety Tips**

**Outlets:**
- If your electrical panel buzzes, call an electrician.
- Never force a plug into an outlet.
- Outlets should be stable and not wobbly when you pull out a plug or plug something in.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or causes shocks, unplug it and fix or replace it immediately.
- Wherever possible use surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment.

**Extension Cords:**
- Don’t use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Use one cord per job; avoid connecting them together.
- Don’t run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Use properly-sized cords specified for outdoor use when using outdoor.
- Screw bulbs into light sockets securely. Loose bulbs can overheat.

**Electricity and Water:**
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) where water is near electricity.
- Keep appliances away from water.
- Never reach into water when water is near electricity.
- Never run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If your electrical panel buzzes, call an electrician.

**Light Bulbs:**
- Watch the wattage. Using lower-wattage compact fluorescent bulbs as permanent wiring.
- Don’t use extension cords that are not sized for outdoor use when using outdoor.
- Don’t run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Do not use extension cords with mismatches of wattage as permanent wiring.
- Overloading plugs is dangerous. According to the National Electrical Safety Foundation, most home outlets can support up to 1,500 watts, while some kitchen circuits can handle about 2,000 watts. Most appliances list wattage on the bottom of the appliance near the serial number. If your portable heater draws about 1,000 watts you should not plug your iron – which draws about 1,100 watts – into the same outlet. If necessary, have an electrician install additional outlets. Remember: Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis. Determine the wattage your extension cord can carry before using it. Mismatching cords and appliances carries a risk of fire or shock.

**Renewable Energy:**
- A new Environmentally-Preferred Power (EPP) option is being offered by BPA. The product is 100% wind power with two-thirds of the wind coming from Northwest wind farms. Staff will provide additional information at the July board meeting.

**Don’t Overdo It**

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n mind, a robotic arm designed and built for the hardware, supplies and problem solving skills by students in his engineering VI class.

The Salem Electric grant fund includes a $5000 award for high school students in Oregon to develop renewable energy projects. This year Ted Davis from West Salem High School had the perfect project to make this happen. Ted is a history major at Augustana University in South Dakota and has been working on building and problem solving skills for an arm that can lift objects. He has been working on a robotic arm for a few years and is now ready to test it out in the real world.

The arm is made of wood and is hydraulically controlled. It has an electro-magnet attached to the end to pick up objects. The arm is controlled by a computer program that can be programmed to pick up objects of different sizes and shapes. It is controlled by a remote control that can be used from up to 50 feet away.

The arm is designed to be used in a variety of applications such as lifting heavy objects, picking up objects with different weights and sizes, and even picking up objects that are moving. The arm is also designed to be used in a variety of environments such as indoors and outdoors.

The arm has been tested in various environments and has been successful in lifting objects of different sizes and shapes. The arm has also been tested in different weather conditions and has been successful in all of them.

The arm is a great example of how technology can be used to solve problems and improve the quality of life. It is a great example of how innovation can be used to solve problems and improve the quality of life. It is a great example of how innovation can be used to solve problems and improve the quality of life.
Electrical Safety Tips

Use electricity safely. Follow these tips to avoid potential hazards.

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- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or causes shocks, unplug it and fix or replace it immediately.
- Whenever possible use surge protectors to protect sensitive electronic equipment.

**Extension Cords:**
- Don’t use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Use one cord per outlet, avoiding connecting them together.
- Don’t run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Use properly-sized cords specified for outdoor use when using outdoors.
- Keep appliances away from water.
- Never reach into water for an appliance. Unplug it first.

**Light Bulbs:**
- Watch the wattage. Using higher-wattage bulbs in lamps or fixtures designed for lower-wattage is a fire hazard. Consider using lower-wattage compact fluorescent bulbs as an alternative.

**Screw bulbs into light sockets securely. Loose bulbs can overheat.**

**Electricity and Water:**
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) where water is near electricity.
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**Wherever possible use surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment.**

**Board Meeting Summary**

**Leadership Youth Scholarship:**
The board presented Leadership Youth Representative Bryce Stagg with a scholarship to pursue further education as an electrician.

**Website Activity Increases:**
An increasing number of members are visiting salemelectric.com for information and services. Each month payment activity from the online bill pay and electronic bill notification has increased.

**Renewable Energy:**
A new Environmentally-Preferred Power (EPP) option is being offered by BPA. The product is 100% wind power with two-thirds of the wind coming from Northwest wind farms. Staff will provide additional information at the July board meeting.

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE – COURSE #1</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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**DATE – COURSE #2**

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<tr>
<th>DATE – COURSE #2</th>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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**DATE – COURSE #3**

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<tr>
<th>DATE – COURSE #3</th>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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The cost is $10 per person which will be collected on the last day of each course.

For registration or information call Helen Finley or Debbie Addison at Salem Electric, starting Wednesday, August 9, at 503-362-3601. Participants are requested to park along the street, leaving Salem Electric's visitor, customer and employee parking available for normal business use. Participants should enter through the board room (gate) to the right of the main entrance in front of the building.
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Electricity and Water:
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) where water is near electricity.
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Please watch the newsletter for more information, or visit salelectric.com and select "Tips for Historic information on rates."

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A project in the East River near New York City will erect turbines to generate energy from tidal currents.

Alternative energy resources take time and money to develop. Progress is not always pleasantly received by the neighbors. Wind turbines in certain areas present problems for residents, such as those in the Catskills in New York, who feel their mountain views, their scenic beauty, is ruined by the sight of wind turbines.

These are issues that must be faced.

Locally, in Oregon, a large wind farm is planned for the Columbus Grove, about 180 miles northeast of Salem-Koiser. Other projects proposed include farms in Sherman County, one near Arlington, and another near Klickitat County in Washington State.

In Salem, Willamette University is offering a Utility Management Certification Program in September to "help the industry deal with the need to continue to provide the increased cost of power and to educate new managers" in the electric industry. With our industry changing rapidly, classes such as these ensure our energy future.

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Alternative Energy Resources

Employee Profile: Chris Jones

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Opinions expressed in “Tips and more” are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the board members or individuals identified in the photo.

Salem Electric is a co-op based in Salem, Oregon, and the retailer for electric service in the Willamette Valley. When he saw ad for Salem Electric’s line crew he applied and was accepted. “I had to put much more time with them and I knew it was going to be a long process, but I didn’t mind it because I’m learning how they do things differently here,” he said.

Chris and Alaina have three children. Tyler (9), Madison (7) and Jacob (5). All of them love the outdoors and are very active. Tyler and Madison like bike riding and baseball. Tyler is the “joker” in the family and also likes video games. Madison shows her rebellious, independent side and is not shy about roughhousing with the boys. Jacob is very loving and affectionate and loves “Sponge Bob Squarepants.”

“I realize the benefits of having a professional,” Chris said. “I realized the importance of having a crew that’s got a heart and wants to do a good job. That’s what we’ve got here.”

When he was released from the hospital, he saw an ad for Salem Electric’s line crew and he applied and was accepted. “I had to put much more time with them and I knew it was going to be a long process, but I didn’t mind it because I’m learning how they do things differently here,” he said.

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