

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
The power of human connections

We are social



While reading this newsletter will keep you informed about the major happenings with New-Mac Electric, perhaps you'd like to have information coming your way more frequently than once a month when *Energy Partners* hits your mailbox. If that's the case, then you've got options.

New-Mac can be found on the two most popular social media websites, and on each, you have access to a wealth of information, such as updates on power restoration following storms, energy-efficiency tips, reminders of upcoming events, *Peak Alert* notifications, new services and much more.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook. It can be easily done, simply by visiting newmac.com and clicking the "Like" icon just below the revolving picture. Don't worry we won't overwhelm your *News Feed*. We usually make weekly posts unless we have urgent news to pass along.

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Plenty of info for *Electrical Safety* month waiting to be discovered on New-Mac website

Even though May has been designated as National Electrical Safety Month, at New-Mac Electric, we believe electrical safety is worth focusing on every month! That is why a valuable resource is always available when our members (or anyone) visits newmac.com.

On our website's home page, you'll find a big button with blue and red lettering stating "Safe Electricity." By clicking on it, a wealth of educational options are presented to site visitors.

Kids can be occupied for hours upon hours playing interactive games teaching them both to respect electricity and also how to save energy around the house.

There's also plenty for adults, as compelling stories, pictures and videos will inform and show the effects of electricity.

The website could also be particularly useful for teachers. There is a page on the site dedicated to "Teacher Materials". It offers printouts, lesson plans, activities and much more.

So, visit our website for information on how to stay safe around electricity this month and every month! Or, if you do not have access to the Internet, stop by or call our office and we can provide printed electrical safety information.



A screen shot of "Safe Electricity," where safety information, games, stories and videos abound.

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Turn in a thief
and earn a reward up to **\$1,000**

Theft and vandalism at your electric co-op are on the rise, and it's costing everyone. Now you can help strike back at these thieves. If you see suspicious activity near power lines, substations, vehicles or offices owned by electric cooperatives, call the toll-free hotline number below. If your tip leads to arrest and conviction, you may earn a reward of up to \$1,000. The money is yours to keep, but the savings belong to all.

Copper theft:

- Is a felony
- Could be classified as terrorism
- Is a direct cost to co-op members
- Could be FATAL
- Could cause power outages

Call the Theft Reward Hotline at 1-855-COPPER9 (1-855-267-7379)

Please don't lock us out

Remember New-Mac Electric always needs to have access to your meter both for periodic inspections and in the event of an outage. So, make sure the co-op can get to your meter, and any existing lock arrangements with New-Mac need to be maintained.

Mulch available

New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515) and ask for Susan or Tobey so arrangements can be made to assist you.

Assistance is available

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
Jasper County
 (417) 781-0352
McDonald County
 (417) 845-6011
Newton County
 (417) 451-2206

Moving advice

When moving out of the New-Mac Electric service area, please don't forget to leave a forwarding address. You could be leaving capital credits behind.

Another  on the lines 

He aims to please

Artist has refined variety of skills by listening to customers

While attending Neosho High School, he had so many hours of band it only allowed for him to squeeze in a single art class.

Back then, Jeffrey Jones had no idea he'd spend years sculpting prototypes of toys. He also had no reason to believe he'd one day be responsible for a 35-foot Santa Claus in Germany. He probably wouldn't have forecasted years as a production potter at Silver Dollar City. And who would have ever guessed he'd one day make national news for building a snowman?

Those are but a few glimpses of the life Jones has lived. It has been diverse. His abilities as a sculptor/artist have taken him around the world. In fact,



Jones plays and produces his high-end guitars only when he finds time – since his emphasis is now on painting. An inventory of guitars he has available can be found on his website: divine-jones.com



Jeffrey Jones talks about his work in progress, a ravaged tree in the foreground of recovering Joplin following the tragic tornado. The piece has since been completed and sold at the St. Avips Auction & Ball on May 4 in Joplin – with proceeds going to the Spiva Center for the Arts. You can follow ongoing projects by visiting his painting blog website, wjeffreyjones.com.

perhaps the only constant for Jones has been change.

That's not necessarily how he had it planned after graduating from Neosho in 1980, then studying fine art at Tulsa University and Missouri Southern. At that point, Jones thought pottery was his niche and that's what he taught at Crowder College for a few years before accepting the aforementioned job at Silver Dollar City.

Yes, he could shape clay before he began working in Branson, but it was at the theme park where his craftsmanship truly thrived.

"It was just eight to 12 hours solid of production pottery daily for years, so you acquire an unheard of amount of skill," he said.

He worked at Silver Dollar City til 1995, also producing his own pottery and ornamental art out of his studio in the Branson area. Then came the next chapter, where his skill continued to be refined.

Jones was recruited to do exhibition sand sculpting by a group based in Sarasota, Fla. He was flown all over the country, sculpting for clients such as Pilot Pen, Lipton Tea, the Minnesota Twins and many more.

"That was similar to Silver Dollar City, in that I was executing my work in front of the public while they asked questions," he said. "So, you have to be solid in what you're doing because you can't fake it to those people."

It was also during this period, he was tasked with sculpting a 35-foot Santa for a retail store in Germany. Just one of many freelance endeavors he has

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been responsible for over the years.

Following two years of putting his sculpting on display abroad, a pair of major happenings occurred around the same time. First, while painting a mural for The Grotto in Neosho, he met his future wife, Donna Divine, who was living in the apartment upstairs. The two hit it off immediately, but soon after, he received and accepted a unique job offer that would send him to New Jersey for the next five years.

Jones went to work for McFarlane Toys – the company owned by famed comic-book artist Todd McFarlane (known for his work with *Spiderman* and as the creator of *Spawn*). Jones was a staff sculptor, and his works weren't really what you'd consider toys. At a quick glance, you might think they are action figures, but that might not be quite right either. Even though the final productions were plastic, what Jones sculpted would probably best be considered "collectibles" or just "art." While some of the characters he sculpted might appeal to the young, such as MLB, NBA, NFL and NASCAR sports figurines; most would certainly be for more mature consumers, as many of Jones' creations were characters from suspense, thriller, action or sci-fi films, or original characters from the often dark imagination of McFarlane, horror-author Clive Barker, or the sculptors themselves.

But all the while, he was in New Jersey, Donna was back in Neosho. The two began to collaborate on building a home together on property just north of Neosho in the New-Mac Electric service area. They went through countless floorplans, and sure enough, Jones even built a scale model of the house. Donna pushed the project along, and after five years of being apart, he came back to his hometown.

Now, the married couple reside in their well thought-out home, built with the white oak trees harvested off the very property. From his local studio, he continues to do freelance work for the toy industry, but his emphasis recently is painting, and the area has already reaped the benefits of his now local skills.

Recently, Jones has painted some news-making pieces commissioned by First Community Bank. The most recent was one entitled "Historic Goodman," which is on display at the bank's Goodman branch office. The first was "The Neosho National Fish Hatchery," which was unveiled at the opening of the new Neosho branch office where it will be permanently displayed.

Of course, there was also that snowman a few winters ago, which was actually more of a snow sculpture of an elderly man with a flowing beard and staff (maybe Old Man Winter). The local newspaper ran a story of it, and soon after, with the help of the *Associated Press* and Internet, the whole world soon knew of it.

Still, since even before those NHS band classes, he's never gotten away from his love for music, and in his world of so many artistic endeavors, it's music he now has to squeeze in, which he has managed to do in multiple ways. He does play. His original music, he describes as instrumental, almost melancholy jazz, and it can be heard periodically at The Grotto. His means of playing is where his passions truly collide.

Jones has developed his own line of custom, high-end professional guitars, and believe it or not, each one features ornate carvings across the wooden body of the instrument. The designs and choice of wood varies with each



A framed lithograph of Jones' painting, "The Neosho National Fish Hatchery," was presented on May 3 to the Missouri State Capital in Jefferson City, where it will remain on display. The original can be seen at Neosho's First Community Bank, which commissioned the work.

one, and he may spend as many as 300 hours on each guitar.

Jones may have never realized one day he'd become such a versatile artist. He still doesn't know where his skills will take him, but he is thankful for where they have taken him and is ready for what lies ahead.

"My philosophy is: I'm twice the artist I used to be, and I'm not half the artist I want to be," he said.

He enjoys the challenge of listening and meeting the expectation of whomever calls upon his services.

"I'm a local resource that can be utilized in a variety of ways, depending on the goal," he said. "I've always considered myself a hired gun, so to speak."

And again, his love of music comes through. "I'm what I would consider on par with a studio musician in that I'll go into the studio and play whatever is on the chart. If that, today, is music for a romantic comedy and tomorrow, it's a horror show, I'll just do whatever is on the chart."

Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:* **SALTINE TOFFEE BARK**

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Kelly Starks**

40 saltines
1 cup butter, cubed
¾ cup sugar
2 cups (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips
1 pkg. (8 oz.) milk chocolate English toffee bits

Line a 15x10x1-in. baking pan with heavy-duty foil. Arrange saltines in single layer on foil; set aside. In large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in sugar. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 1-2 minutes or until sugar is dissolved. Pour evenly over crackers. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until bubbly. Immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Allow chips to soften for a few minutes, then spread over top. Sprinkle with toffee bits. Cool. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until set. Break into pieces. Store in airtight container. Yield: 2 pounds

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: *Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.*

Heat pump graduation: Class of 2012

The high school proms are in full swing and tassels will be turning soon. You'll probably be fanning yourself with the graduation program as Mother Nature heats up the gymnasium.

As I promised you last month, I have one more heat pump class and I feel confident that you will know more about heat pumps than most folks after reading these columns. Before we begin class, here is a refresher from my previous classes and columns. Remember, a properly sized and properly installed heat pump system, including ductwork, will provide affordable comfort. This will be on the test! A properly sized heating and cooling system is not a guess. It must be calculated properly.

So how do we properly size a heating and cooling system? This brings us to our final lesson, which will be about proper sizing and installation. I think that many of you will find this quite interesting and you may earn an "A" for the course.

The scientific and mathematical step-by-step method commonly used to size a heat pump for a house is called a Manual-J load calculation. A computer with industry-approved software is used. Sizing heating and cooling loads properly is not a terribly difficult process, but it does usually take a few hours. For today's class, we will size the system for a 1,500-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath house. The dimensions are 30 feet by 50 feet.

Now, I will input the home components required by the computer software. This process derives the total British Thermal Units (BTUs) needed to heat and cool this house. Here are some of the key components for our house:

1. Home location: a. City – Little Rock; b. State – Arkansas
2. Design temperature for your geographical location: a. Summer – 100 degrees; b. Winter – 21 degrees
3. Your desired thermostat setting: a. Heating – 74 degrees; b. Cooling – 71 degrees

Now, we input the actual construction features that relate to the heating and cooling one room at a time. Let's start with the master bedroom. It measures 14 feet by 16 feet and forms a corner with 14 feet of north facing wall and 16 feet of west facing wall.

4. Exposed wall – 30 feet
5. Room dimensions – 14 feet by 16 feet
6. Ceiling height – 9 feet

7. Wall type – 4-inch wood studs with R-11 cellulose insulation and brick veneer
8. Windows – Double-glazed, low-E, argon gas, vinyl, 30 square feet oriented north and 15 square feet oriented west
9. Exterior doors – None in this room
10. Ceiling insulation – R-44, blown cellulose
11. Floor insulation – R-11, enclosed crawl-space
12. Air infiltration – No fireplace and average construction

Based upon this information, our software indicates this room needs 3,550 BTUs of heating and 2,873 BTUs of cooling. Now we'll input the data from each room and derive a total for the entire dwelling.

Our software indicates the entire house requires 21,229 BTUs of heat for a designed load of 21 degrees during the winter. Our house requires 21,015 BTUs of cooling for a designed load of 100 degrees

during the summer. The heating and cooling BTU requirements are almost the same number, which makes this home a perfect heat pump application.

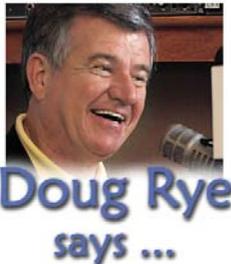
So, a 2-ton (24,000 BTU) properly installed heat pump would be perfect for this particular house. However, I know from experience that many HVAC dealers simply guess at the required system and suggest a much-larger system.

A larger system will cost more to purchase and more to operate. For instance, a 3-ton geothermal heat pump will cost about \$6,000 more than a 2-ton system.

We'll close with proper installation. It's imperative that the HVAC installer size the ductwork to deliver the required BTUs to each room. The ductwork should be rigid pipe and properly sealed.

I suggest that you always ask to see the load requirement calculations before agreeing to purchase a new heating and cooling system. Be sure to ask for a few references from the company. Follow these suggestions and you will have affordable comfort year round.

Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show – heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.



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Or visit us on the Web at
www.newmac.com.

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Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:
Autowithdrawal Payment
Levelized Billing
Rental Light
Meeting rooms available at both locations
Credit Card Acceptance
Safety Programs (upon request)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
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○ Social media

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Those familiar with *Twitter* know it's more about viewing a constant stream of information. If you opt to follow @NewMacElectric, you can count on all the same posts our *Facebook* page offers plus a steady flow of energy efficiency *Tweets* and other news related to rural electric cooperatives.

You can find links to both our *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages from the New-Mac website, and with a few clicks, you can be even more "in the know" as it applies to your electric coop.

**DON'T FORGET: DISHWASHER & CLOTHES WASHER
REBATES EXPIRE JUNE 1, 2012**