


# 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

## Wintery weather finally arrives in late February

### Around 4,500 outages in early hours of snowy day

New-Mac Electric’s lines weren’t overly affected by the six inches of snow that fell Feb. 26, but the same couldn’t be said for New-Mac’s power supplier, KAMO Power, in Vinita, Okla.

KAMO started experiencing transmission issues due to galloping lines with four of its substations in the early morning hours and then lost power to the subs around 4:30 a.m. Around 4,500 customers were out of power in the areas of Diamond Grove, Spring City, Spurgeon and Wentworth until those substations were restored shortly after 7 o’clock that morning.

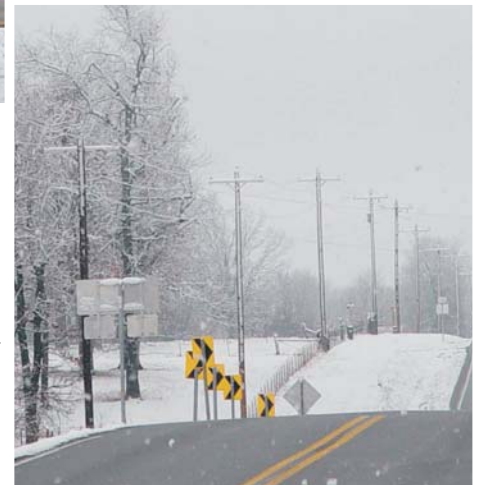
New-Mac actually had more threatening weather the previous week, when the area received 1-2 inches of freezing rain and sleet on Feb. 21. However, the co-op had only a few outages with that weather system.



**The New-Mac Electric service area finally received some arctic blasts in mid-to-late February. There were also outages, however those were largely due to loss of transmission from the co-op’s supplier, KAMO Power.**

Southwest Missouri also received a few inches of snow the morning of Feb. 13, but New-Mac had no outages that day.

It was a while coming, but winter finally seemed to arrive.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Another Stop on the Lines...page 2
- Recipe of the month .....page 3
- Doug Rye.....page 4



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.

## March is trade show month for New-Mac

New-Mac Electric will hit the road for area trade shows this month, so be sure to come by and see us.

In fact, one weekend in March will be a busy time for your co-op, and you’ll have the opportunity to visit with us twice.

Neosho’s 21st Annual Business & Industry Review will be held March 14-15 at the high school cafeteria. The event is open to the public from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

That same weekend, the Home Builders Association of Southwest Missouri will hold

its annual Home Show at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Joplin. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and then on Sunday, the 17th, show hours will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The following Saturday, March 23, the 7th Annual McDonald County Business Expo will occur. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the high school in Anderson.

At all of these shows, New-Mac will have helpful information to share. This year, the cooperative will focus on ways to be prepared for the upcoming storm season. So, mark your calendar and visit with friends from New-Mac.

### Think twice before cutting meter seals

A broken or removed meter seal is viewed as an indicator of meter tampering. Therefore, do not cut a meter seal without authorization from New-Mac. If electrical work needs done, requiring a seal to be broken, such work should be performed by someone with electrical training. Many times, a main breaker switch can simply be flipped to allow for such work.

### Mulch available

Just in time for spring landscaping, New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515 or 800-322-3849) and ask for Susan or Tobey so arrangements can be made to assist you.

### Plan ahead

Any plans of additions or upgrades on your property should include New-Mac in the early stages.

Contact the engineering department about any project that will require additional electrical service. Calling New-Mac early will not only expedite the process, but it could also render money saving advice.

Contact the engineering department at (417) 451-1515.

Another  on the lines 

## 'Just trying to help' leads to big business

Rural storm shelter company literally weathers storms

For Enos and Jeremy Davis, it all started with trying to help an elderly lady use a storm shelter she already owned.

A decade ago, Jeremy, a professional welder, was making metal benches for a friend who sold storm shelters. Well, one of his friend's customers was struggling to get down into her new in-ground shelter. Even after Jeremy installed a customized hydraulic lift, the woman, who used a walker, was still finding it to be a challenge to actually be able to enter her shelter, although her costs were mounting.

So, Jeremy and his father Enos, who had spent 30-years crafting specialized equipment in his machine shop, got to talking about storm shelters.

At the time, Enos remembered telling his son, "Shelters are out there 40 or 50 feet from the house. Who wants to go out when hail is hitting you in the head and there's flying debris? We can do better than this."

After researching FEMA's guidelines, in 2004, together they designed an above-ground steel enclosure that could be placed either inside or just outside a home. They also learned that Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, was the place to put their new shelter to the test.

"We built one and took it down and let them



Another *Twister Safe* storm shelter that made it through the Joplin tornado



Clockwise from above, a *Twister Safe* shelter kept its owners safe during the Joplin tornado; the new location on Gateway Drive; a shiny new shelter.



shoot the cannon at it, and we've been selling them ever since," said Enos.

Indeed, Jeremy and Enos' first creation survived the 2x4 wood-plank cannon at the Texas lab. The "safe rooms" they've made since have withstood real-life testing – with the same results.

Jeremy and Enos, along with his wife Linda, started *Twister Safe* in 2005 at the elder Davises' residence, north of Neosho on P Highway. After a relatively slow start, business really picked up after Racine was hit by an EF-4 tornado on May 10, 2008.

That night, the Davis family realized one of their shelters was right in the path of the tornado on Iris Road. So, they went to check on it, pulled into the driveway, and observed a demolished home. But still standing in the ruins of the garage was the safe room and out came the occupants declaring, "We're twister safe! We're twister safe."

Three years later, business spiked again due to tragedy. On May 22, 2011, when the deadliest tornado in the U.S. since 1947 hit Joplin, seven *Twister Safe* rooms were in the path of the twister. All seven were occupied and left safely standing in the midst of the destruction.

When those homeowners built back, the very same storm shelter went into their new homes.

"All the safe rooms that were hit, we just brought them back in here and painted them," said Enos. "So, they've got the same safe room they had ... only with a new coat of paint."

However, there were plenty of new shelters leaving the *Twister Safe* shop following the EF-5 tornado.

"I got as many as 10 orders in a day," said Enos. Actually, in order to keep up with demand, the company went from four employees to around 20 and moved the business into an 8,000 square-foot

# 'A lot of folks just don't have a safe place to go'

## Diamond area couple starts business after helping tornado victims recover

Because of the Joplin tornado, Tom and Suzi Powell sell storm shelters today.

The Powell's home, near Diamond in the New-Mac Electric service area, was safe from the May 22, 2011, EF-5 tornado, but Suzi's parents' home was not.

Thankfully, Suzi's parents were okay.

"They were in their middle closet," said Tom, "That's all that was standing at the end of the tornado."

Also, in the path of the tornado were a significant number of customers of the lawncare service Tom had been running.

"My lawn business was about 45 percent wiped out due to the tornado."

Mindful of what Suzi's parents experienced, and as they helped them get into a new house, the Powells saw opportunity in providing a service. So, *Funnel Proof Storm Shelters* came into existence.

"A lot of folks just don't have a safe place to go," said Tom. "We basically wanted to help people who didn't have a shelter before and help

them get to safety."

The Powells primarily sell in-ground shelters, however they also sell both concrete and steel shelters for inside a garage.

They've also set a shelter on a new foundation and had customers build a house around the shelter, then using it as a closet or pantry.

You can find more about *Funnel Proof Storm Shelters* by calling 417-439-5873 or visit their website [funnelproofstormshelters.com](http://funnelproofstormshelters.com).

The Powells have indeed had the opportunity to help many who lost homes in the Joplin tornado, including a household dear to their hearts.

"It's also easier for her to sleep now that she has a tornado shelter," said Tom about his mother-in-law.



Since starting their business following the Joplin tornado, Tom and Suzi Powell have sold shelters to several of those who lost homes due to the EF-5 twister. Above, one of the Powell's shelters can be seen at 32nd and Rangeline in Joplin. At left is an inside view of the shelter.

### Area Storm Shelter Dealers

Other local storm shelter providers include:

- A-Quality Excavating, LLC .....417-781-2168
- Atlas Safe Rooms.....800-781-0112
- Four State Fire & Safety.....417-850-5562
- Henson Septic Tanks & Supplies .....417-451-1880
- Midwest Storm Shelters .....417-781-9718
- Missouri Storm Shelters .....417-782-4444
- R & S Midwest Construction, LLC .....417-499-2259

## ○ Twister Safe

*Continued from page 2*

facility located at 9479 Gateway Dr., Neosho. Among the new employees was Enos and Linda's daughter and Jeremy's sister, Jennifer McKeough who came on board to help with sales, marketing and business development.

Now that people have seen how the above-ground, steel shelters have actually performed in EF-4 and EF-5 tornadoes, there's no sign of business slowing down. *Twister Safe* sold 320 units in 2012. Estimates are free. They can even customize shelters to fit into spaces, like under stairways.

Enos can't believe it all started with just trying to help get a lady to safety.

"We're just two country boys that had an idea."

Visit [twistersafe.com](http://twistersafe.com) or call 888-782-1039 for more details.

### Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

### FANTASTIC PEA SALAD

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Wilma Jean Porter**

- 1 bag coleslaw mix
- 1 red onion, chopped finely
- 1 bag frozen peas
- 1 can peanuts
- 1 bottle *Ott's* Poppy Seed Dressing

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Chill and serve.

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](mailto:recipes@new-mac.com). If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

# It's all about the sun

As I mentioned last month, several things have happened to convince me that I should dedicate several articles to the very basics of energy efficiency. I have pondered this a lot and even wake up during the night thinking about it.

I have discussed some of these thoughts with young students, middle-aged adults and some senior adults. They all agree that we need to know more basics about energy efficiency. Just last week, while conducting a meeting at a high school auditorium, I asked the question, "As we know it, all energy comes from where?"

There were 75 people in attendance including students and adults. No one answered the question, so I asked it again.

Finally an adult answered, "From the sun."

That is the correct answer, and I, like many of you, had learned that in a science class many years ago.

I'm sure that some others thought, after they heard the correct answer, "Oh yeah, I knew that too." But I am convinced that many in the room did not know that all energy comes from the sun. Wow, that's a really big statement, so let's look at some of the ways that the sun relates to the energy use of our home.

1. If there had been no sun a long time ago, there would be no coal for the generation of electricity today.

2. If there had been no sun in the past, there would be no natural gas for house heating or electricity generation today. This also applies to propane gas.

3. If there were no sun, there would be no wood to help heat a house.

4. If there were no sun, there would be no wind to turn a turbine to generate electricity.

5. If there were no sun, there would be no rain and, therefore, no water in the lake to generate electricity.

6. If there were no sun, biomass would not even be considered as a possible future source for generating electricity.

7. And last, and most obvious, if there were no sun, you could not have any solar generation.

Isn't it interesting to note that just about all of this has to do with the generation of electricity? Why is this the case? It is because just about everything in the house, except the dog and the furniture, needs electricity. Even a gas furnace and a gas clothes dryer need electric fan motors to operate properly. And a gas range in the kitchen probably uses electricity for the clock and timers. For the last several years, electronic items have been the No. 1 gifts at Christmas and, yes, all electronics use electricity.

Well, I think we would all agree that the need for electricity is not going away and that the demand is most likely to increase. With that said, it is imperative that we use electricity wisely. That is exactly why this column is placed in this publication.

Your electric co-op's mission is to provide you with adequate and affordable electricity. Folks, I am

not an employee of any electric co-op, but I know for a fact that they all work hard to fulfill their mission to you, the members, in spite of difficult governmental regulations. Although you and I have no control whatsoever over utility rates, we do have control over use. Simply put, that is called conservation and energy efficiency.

Think with me for a minute. Just look at a tube of caulk. Energy was required to manufacture, package and ship the tube. Let's say that it took 50 cents to put the tube on the shelf. Now, let's suppose that 10 cents of the 50 cents was for electricity for the manufacturing. If you pay \$2 for the tube and caulk places in your house, you will then save 10 cents per month on your electric bill. The 10 cents of electricity that was used in producing the one tube of caulk would likely save hundreds of dollars of electricity over the life of the house. What if each household in America would use one tube? Wow, that would be huge. What if each household used 10 tubes? That total savings in the generation of electricity would be unbelievable.

It is not important that my dollar figures be exactly correct. But it is impor-



**Doug Rye**  
says ...



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86  
Neosho, Missouri 64850  
**Telephone:** 417/451-1515 800/322-3849  
**Fax:** 417/451-9042  
**Office Hours:** Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at  
[www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

### Management

CEO/General Manager ..... Mitch McCumber  
Manager of Administration ..... Mary Hatfield  
Manager of Operations ..... Stan Irsik  
Controller ..... Lisa McMeen  
Manager of Marketing ..... Mark K. Rakes  
Billing Supervisor ..... Vickie Stuart

### Board of Directors

District 1 ..... Martin Youngblood  
District 2 ..... Kenneth Daniels  
District 3 ..... Bobby Fields  
District 4 ..... Beryl Kennedy  
District 5 ..... Billy P. White  
District 6 ..... Paul Sprenkle  
District 7 ..... Maurice Mailes  
District 8 ..... Virgil Winchester  
District 9 ..... Dewey Allgood

### 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  
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)

tant that we use energy wisely today to help have adequate affordable energy in the future. We can do our part, and we can make a difference. Of course, without the sun, it wouldn't even matter.

See you next month when the sun will make the dogwood trees really beautiful.

*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.*