



Watt's Going On

Greg McFarland, General Manager/CEO
gregm@jacelec.com

Congratulations to the seniors who received a Jackson Electric Cooperative \$750 scholarship. You can find the scholarship recipients listed below.

Every year, Jackson Electric Cooperative offers scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to continue their education beyond high school. We provide a scholarship to eight area high schools in our service territory, as well as one recipient who is home-schooled, open enrolled, or attends a private school. This scholarship program is one of the many ways the cooperative gives back to the community.

Unfortunately, there are graduating seniors in area schools who do not take advantage of the scholarship program. We've done some research and found there are qualified students who are able to apply for the scholarship, but decide not to. This year, for example, a guidance counselor from one school gave the scholarship application to three qualified students. None of those students filled out the application; therefore, a scholarship was not presented.

Please, as parents and grandparents, encourage your children and grandchildren to apply for these scholarships. Businesses offer scholarships because they feel education is important for the future success of our youth and, in our case, we support the children of our members.

Young Professionals Needed in the Energy Workforce

According to a report from the National Research Council, published in the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation newsletter, a lack of younger workers trained in science, technology, and engineering could contribute to a future workforce shortage in the energy and mining sectors.

It is estimated that 62 percent of workers in the electric and natural gas utilities will retire or leave work for other reasons within the decade. To maintain present workforce levels, between 2,200 and 2,900 power engineers will be needed per year until 2015, and up to 1,150 per year between 2015 and 2020. The energy and mining sectors, which provide good-paying jobs, hold a bright future for students interested in continuing their education in these fields.

To students who plan to continue their education – consider a career in the energy field. The opportunity for a successful career is astounding and statistics show there will be a need for energy professionals in the future... and apply for those scholarships! Safety always! ■

Jackson Electric Cooperative Supports Youth by Giving Scholarships

Congratulations to the students who were awarded scholarships through Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual scholarship program. Each of these students received a \$750 scholarship for their continuing education.

Jackson Electric Cooperative's scholarship program encourages post-secondary education for area high school seniors by assisting them in financing their education. Scholarships are offered to eight high schools in Jackson Electric Cooperative's service territory, as well as those students who are home-schooled, open enrolled, or attend a private school. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a deserving senior who participates in Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program. ■

Scholarships were offered to Neillsville and Whitehall High Schools, but no applications were submitted.



Mariah Jessie
Black River Falls
High School



Brandon Koss
Melrose-Mindoro
High School



Navarone Nemec
Sparta High School



Dana June
Osseo-Fairchild
High School



Mariama Dryak
Blair-Taylor
High School



Robert Olson
Home Schooled/
Open/Private



Bryce Kopp
Youth Ambassador

Photo not
available for
Kayla Patterson,
Alma Center-
Humbird-
Merrillan High
School

Come for the Wine – Stay for the View

“We want people to come for the experience,” says Bob Dubiel, owner of Sandstone Ridge Vineyard & Winery. “Whether you purchase a bottle of wine from us or not, we want you to enjoy the natural beauty of the land the vineyard is planted on.”



Located on 100 acres of rolling hills in Northfield, the south-facing slopes and sandy soil make a perfect combination for growing quality wine grapes for Sandstone Ridge Vineyard and Winery. After starting a vineyard in Trempealeau County, Bob and Connie Dubiel purchased property in Northfield and in 2009 planted a second vineyard. They also dreamed of building a facility in which they could make wine from the grapes they grew and offer a unique experience to wine enthusiasts and those who enjoy the beauty of the land. In May of 2012, they built a winery.



Sandstone Ridge Vineyard and Winery is located at N11601 Kaas Lane, Osseo, just off I-94 between Madison and Minneapolis. Take the Hwy. 121 Northfield/Alma Center exit. Left: Award-winning wine.

Planted on the vineyard’s seven acres are cold-hardy Wisconsin grapes. Cold-hardy grapes are those that can survive a cold, harsh climate, which makes them a perfect match for Wisconsin’s sometimes unusual weather. Grape varieties grown at Sandstone Ridge include Frontenac, La Crescent, Brianna, and Marquette, to name a few. Each variety makes a unique-flavored Wisconsin wine. Harvested are approximately 20 tons of grapes, with an additional 10 tons purchased from local vineyards, to create a wine to satisfy your palette. Bob says that it takes about 3-1/2 pounds of grapes to produce one bottle of wine. Two varieties of table grapes are also available to purchase from the vineyard. Those are perfect for eating or making jams or jellies.

When you arrive at Sandstone Ridge, you’ll see acres of grape trellises. Depending on how Bob wants the grape vine to grow, two to four strands of wire attach to each post of the trellis. Tied securely to the wire, the grape vines are allowed to grow and produce grapes. It takes two to three growing seasons before the grapes are ready to be harvested. Bob says that much of his vineyard is experimental. He’s done different pruning and vine-training techniques so that he can produce a high-quality fruit with consistent production for quality-flavored wines.

Grapes grow best on south-facing slopes that provide full sunlight. Low valley vineyards are susceptible to frost that could potentially damage a crop of grapes. Grapes thrive in well-drained sandy loam soil that is low in fertility. Bob describes the site of Sandstone Ridge Vineyard as “perfect” for growing grapes because of the land and soil qualities.

Several varieties of grapes are grown and harvested to produce quality Wisconsin wine.



Buds will blossom to produce grapes.



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Sandstone Ridge offers 12 different wine varieties, several of which are award winning; 11 of them are produced from Wisconsin fruit and one from California

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It's Green Electric Grillin' Season

Put away your gas or charcoal grill and plug in your electric grill for great taste!

- ✓ No open flame
- ✓ No tanks to fill
- ✓ No pollutants deposited in your food



Safe – Fast – Convenient

Cooking made so easy you have more time for family fun!



For more information about outdoor electric grills, contact your favorite grill retailer.

JEC Linemen Help Restore Power After Snowstorm

Two Jackson Electric Cooperative linemen responded to a call to assist in the restoration of power in the Pierce Pepin Cooperative Service's territory following an unusual spring snowstorm Thursday, May 2. The heavy, wet snow caused havoc in much of northern Wisconsin, causing more than 2,400 Pierce Pepin electric accounts to be without power.



Jesse Hansen and Steve Tenner, along with linemen from Riverland Energy and Clark Electric Cooperatives, assisted Pierce Pepin Co-

operative crews in unfavorable weather conditions in rebuilding power lines and setting poles. The crews assisted as part of the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency)

that was issued by Dairyland Power Cooperative on behalf of Pierce Pepin.

Power was restored to the full membership by early Sunday (May 5) evening. ■

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Join Jackson Electric Cooperative's Youth Ambassador Program

Open to all area high school juniors and seniors

- Build leadership skills, learn about cooperative principles and careers, meet new friends
- Tour Dairyland Power Cooperative's Administration Building and Genoa Power Plant
- Apply for a \$1,000 scholarship
- Apply for an opportunity to attend the Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

For more information, go to www.jackelec.com or contact Carol at cblaken@jackelec.com.

Celebrate Earth Day Every Day...

by supporting renewable energy!

Please sign me up for Evergreen.

1 block (\$1.50 per month)

2 blocks (\$3.00 per month)

3 blocks (\$4.50 per month)

4 blocks (\$6.00 per month)

5 blocks (\$7.50 per month)

___ blocks at \$1.50 per block per month

*** One block = 100 kilowatt-hours**

I understand that this amount is in addition to my monthly energy bill and that I may cancel my purchase at any time.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account No.: _____

Complete, clip and return this form to Jackson Electric Cooperative before December 31, 2013, and receive a reusable tote as our way of saying "thank you" for supporting renewable energy.

Jackson
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Partner

www.jackelec.com

By participating in the Evergreen program, you pay a minimal additional charge on your electric bill every month to help offset the additional cost of renewable energy generation. You don't have to own a wind turbine to support renewable energy!

Invest in Evergreen and Go Green!

Annual Member Picnic in the Park

Tuesday, August 13, 2013
3:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Lunda Park Upper Shelter,
Black River Falls

Pulled pork sandwiches with all the traditional picnic sides
Outdoor music starting at 7 p.m.



DO THE SUMMER SHIFT
11 am – 7 pm

It's so simple. Shifting energy use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. weekdays helps keep electric rates affordable for everyone.

- ➔ Delay the dishwasher.
- ➔ Turn up the thermostat.
- ➔ Shift the start of laundry.

TOGETHERWESAVE

Ask Your Cooperative

Steve Meyer, Member Services Director



Summer Electric Rates

Q: Why are my electric rates higher in the summer months (June, July, August) than in the winter months?

A: Simply put, hot weather drives electricity costs up. Jackson Electric Cooperative purchases wholesale electricity from Dairyland Power Cooperative. Dairyland Power, in turn, purchases power from the regional

power pool at market prices that are driven by the demand for electric power. The demand for electricity peaks during the summer between the hours of 1 to 5 p.m. especially on hot days.

The wholesale rate paid by Jackson Electric to Dairyland Power reflects the higher cost of power during the summer months, and this in turn is passed on to the members in the retail rate.

To help control energy costs during the summer months, please shift electrical usage from the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and more importantly, from the hours of 1 to 5 p.m. on the hottest days of summer.

If you have a question to ask Jackson Electric Cooperative, please submit it to our office at P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615 or e-mail cblaken@jackelec.com, and put in the subject line "Magazine Question." ■

Sandstone Ridge Winery (Continued from page 5)

fruit. "Wisconsin wine from Wisconsin grapes," says Bob proudly.

In addition to the vineyard is the winery that overlooks the vineyard. The winery is home to stainless steel wine casks that store several gallons of wine, wine testing equipment, a gift shop, a banquet room available for special events, a customer tasting room, and an anticipated wine bottling room in which customers will be able to view the bottling process. Relax with a glass of wine on the adjoining patio while enjoying the beauty of western Wisconsin.

Expansion of the business is well in the works. A new outdoor pavilion



Grape vines are trained to grow on a trellis built with wire and poles.

is planned to be complete in July. The pavilion, built on a knoll in the middle of the vineyard, overlooks a spring-fed pond. Bob says he welcomes weddings, business meetings, casual gatherings, and other events.

They also plan two days in the fall during which the public can help harvest the grapes and participate in a grape stomp. Bob says this has become a fun event for his customers that keeps them coming back.

To learn more about Sandstone Ridge Vineyard and Winery, go to www.sandstoneridge.co or call (715) 984-4020. Hours of operation are Fridays, 1–9 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Sundays, noon–6 p.m. ■

What is Ice Wine?

Ice wine is a super sweet dessert wine made from grapes that have been allowed to freeze on the vine. Different than ordinary wine grapes, frozen grapes' sugars are more concentrated which intensify their flavor. Ice wine is available at Sandstone Ridge.

Jackson
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Greg McFarland,
General Manager/CEO

Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615
(715) 284-5385 • (800) 370-4607
www.jackelec.com

Outage Only Number:
(855) 222-DARK (3275)

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