

PARK SPARKS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Park Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mr. Smith goes to Washington! Park Electric's 2010 Youth to Washington D.C. winner

Our Congratulations go out to Jason Smith of Big Timber, the 2010 winner of the Park Electric's Youth to Washington Essay contest! Jason's essay on leadership has earned himself a trip to our nation's capital.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950's.

The trip, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, has been an invaluable opportunity for rural students to interact first hand with their representatives and senators while taking in all the sights around our nation's capital.

While enjoying the rewards of their achievement, the time spent in Washington exposes the more than 1500 students from across our nation to the bigger picture. It gives the students a chance to see that as active citizens, they can make a difference in their communities and the world.

In this year's essay, high school juniors and seniors were asked to:

"Identify and describe the key qualities of leadership that are important to young adults, and explain where today's young leader should be focused."

Jason writes, "some characteristics of leadership are especially valuable to adolescents. Key qualities of a leader that are important to young adults are honesty, altruism, and being a capable listener."

Jason continues on honesty, "Honesty is a crucial trait for a leader. If a leader cannot be trusted to follow through, he or she will not be wanted or respected as a leader.

A good leader must also understand

the needs of those he leads and put them before his own. Most young adults in America are nearing the voting age or are already eligible to vote. I would have difficulty voting for someone who tried to pass bills that did not represent his constituency. It is very important to young people that public officials, as well as other leaders, advocate for the betterment of all of their citizens, and not their own selfish desires. However, for



a leader to fight for the needs of others, he or she must be able to listen to and understand those people.

Throughout history, subjects have wanted their leaders to listen to their suggestions. The ability to listen to others and their needs is a quality that is greatly

appreciated in a leader."

In conclusion, Jason explains where he thinks today's young leader should be focused, "there are many fields where young leaders can direct their attention. For example, the new frontier of "green energy" is full of opportunities for developing leaders to put their skills to work. Additionally, technology and robotics are other fields with limitless possibilities. In whatever area a person decides to lead; honesty, integrity, selflessness, and the willingness to embrace ideas from many sources will be important qualities to possess."

Jason is a junior at Rapelje H.S. where he is a member of the Business Professionals of America and the State All-Star hockey team. In addition, Jason is a rancher and a member of the Billings H.S. hockey team. He is the son of Linda McMullen and Farwell Smith of Big Timber. Congratulations Jason!



"What's wrong Henry?" asked his wife. "My razor," boomed the voice within the bathroom. "It doesn't cut at all!" "Don't be silly; your beard can't be tougher than linoleum!"

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2010 Irrigation Rates

ANNUAL BASE RATE	\$14.50 horsepower per season
FIRST 500 kWh/Billing HP	\$.068/kWh per season
All kWh over	\$.053/kWh per season



Manager's Comments

Tim Stephens

With all of the staff changes in recent months, we have one more to report. Your new Operations Superintendent is Bob Goodwine. Quite a few of you already know Bob. He is a lifelong Livingston resident and has worked for Park Electric for 26 years. Bob is a great addition to the management team and has always had the best interest of our members in mind. Stop in and tell him congratulations!

The calendar says spring is just around the corner and that brings with it the irrigation season! It's time to start cleaning the ditches and checking your systems. Remember to check your

sprinkler heads. The efficiency of your system relies on the right size pump and the proper heads putting out the correct amount of water. Incorrect or worn heads translate to greater costs and poor water management.

You will find the irrigation rates for 2010 on the first page of this issue of Parks Sparks. I would like to give an example of what the new rates mean to the typical irrigator. At last year's rates for 1000 hours of run time for a 30 horsepower pump with normal efficiency, you would expect to pay about \$2,142. With the new rates, under the same conditions, that system will cost about \$2,250 for the season. The irrigation rates are up about 5% from last year, about the same increases seen by other rate classes.

With the prospect of finally getting started on those projects that have piled up over the winter, don't forget to play it safe and call in underground locates

before you dig. One call will get all of the utilities located. The call center has done a great job in the last year to make it easier for people to call in locates. Be sure to have your address, the approximate distance to the nearest intersection, locate instructions and county, township, range, and section, if you know it, before you call. There are two numbers you can call, 800-424-5555 or simply dial 811. There is no charge for locating a utility's underground lines. You can arrange for them to locate your equipment, for a fee, at the same time.



~ Credit Card Payments ~

- To pay by credit card online - please visit our website at www.parkelectric.coop and select "Pay Your Bill Online"
- To pay by credit card over the telephone - please call 1-877-260-7787. It would be very helpful to have your bill in hand as you will be asked to enter your Park Electric 5 - 6 digit account number, and the amount you wish to pay.
- We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Electronic Checks.
- The convenience fee is \$3.95 for any payment of up to \$250.00 and an additional \$3.95 for each additional \$250.00.

Recipe Corner

Cornish Game Hens with Cornbread Stuffing - serves 4

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6 T unsalted butter, divided | 1 T minced flat-leaf parsley |
| 1 small leek, white part with 1" of green, finely chopped and rinsed | Sage and parsley sprigs for garnish |
| 1 small apple, peeled, cored and diced | 2 c. cubed day old cornbread |
| 1 1/2 t minced fresh sage | 3/4 to 1 c. chicken broth |
| | Salt and pepper |

In a medium skillet, heat 2 T of the butter over medium-low heat. Saute leeks until softened, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add apples and cook 3 minutes more. In a medium bowl, combine leek mixture with sage, parsley, cornbread and enough broth to moisten. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 400°. Stuff birds with cornbread mixture and tie legs of each hen together with kitchen twine. Melt remaining butter and brush over birds, season with salt and pepper. Roast hens on a rack in large roasting pan, breast side up until thermometer inserted in thigh registers 170°, about 80 minutes. Set birds aside at room temperature, loosely covered with foil, for 10 minutes before carving.

For smaller portions split hens in half through the breast with a sharp knife.

Just a reminder!
 The Low Income Energy Assistance Program Applications are due no later than April 30, 2010. If you do not qualify for LIEAP you can apply for Energy Share, a zero interest loan with no income guidelines. Call HRDC at 587-4486 for more information.

