



P.O. Box 360, 14935 U.S. Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654  
785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323  
www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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## POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

**POWER**  
*to make life better*

## FROM THE CEO

# May Your Holidays Be Merry and Bright

It's hard to believe December is already here! The end of the year always seems to come quickly, bringing a festive rush of holiday gatherings and celebrations. While this festive time of year brings joy and warmth, as the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Prairie Land cares about your wellbeing. This month, we'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

### SAFETY FIRST

Many families truly enjoy decorating

our home for the holidays. Before decking the halls, always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This will give you peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten your home. Also, double check the holiday lights you use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to



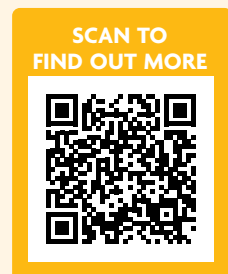
Kirk Girard

*Continued on page 12D* ▶

## NOW AVAILABLE!

# YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS OPEN

Apply by Jan. 10. at 5 p.m.



Apply today for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20, 2025, and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 11-17, 2025. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip.

Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code. You can also find the form in your monthly bill, request one from your high school counselor, or contact us at 800-577-3323 or [sgallentine@ple.coop](mailto:sgallentine@ple.coop). **APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M. JAN. 10, 2025.**



# Cooperative Month Safety Poster Contest Winners



Trey Mellies (second from right) with his winning poster poses with his teacher and Area Supervisor Vonley Frey (right).



To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, Prairie Land held a poster contest for third graders across its 18-county service territory. Students used their creativity to draw posters of electrical safety at home or school.

The top three winners were awarded a new bike and helmet. As an incentive for schools and teachers to allow their students to enter, all participating classroom teachers received a donation from Prairie Land to use for classroom supplies. Classes with winning posters received an additional donation. Prairie Land received 468 posters from 33 participating classrooms in 18 schools. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!**

- ▶ **FIRST PLACE – TREY MELLIES**, Beloit Elementary, Beloit; Mrs. McMillan, teacher, \$300 in total donation.
- ▶ **SECOND PLACE – TESS WYRILL**, Thunder Ridge, Kensington; Mrs. Ratliff, teacher, \$250 in total donation.
- ▶ **THIRD PLACE – BAKER THOMAS**, Phillipsburg Elementary, Phillipsburg; Ms. Cortese, teacher, \$200 in total donation.



Tess Wyrill (center) with her poster poses with her teacher and Area Supervisor Brandon Blue (left).



Baker Thomas (second from left) poses with his teacher and Area Supervisor Jake Epley (center) and Journeyman Lineworker Ryan Swatzell (right).

MERRY *Christmas* & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a peaceful new year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON **DEC. 25 AND JAN. 1.**

# Celebrating Years of Service

Prairie Land would like to congratulate and extend heartfelt appreciation to **KELLY JONES** for his years of dedicated service to our members and cooperative.

Kelly first joined the co-op on Dec. 6, 2004, as a temporary technician in the satellite TV department, moving to become a full-time direct broadcast satellite tech in February 2005. His commitment and expertise earned him a permanent role as a technical assistant on Feb. 1, 2007 — a position he continues to hold today in our IT department.

Outside of work, Kelly enjoys spending time with his wife, Lana, their three daughters, and nine grandchildren. In his free time, he loves camping, fishing and playing in a band. Thank you, Kelly, for your valuable contributions to our team!

Prairie Land Electric would also like to recognize and celebrate **SONDRA MARVIN** and **DALTON SCHNEIDER** for 10 years of dedication to our cooperative.

**SONDRA MARVIN** began her career at Prairie Land Electric as a billing clerk on Dec. 1, 2014. Her dedication and work ethic led to her promotion to operations assistant on Jan. 29, 2018. Sondra transitioned into an apprentice mapping technician role on Feb. 10, 2020. Upon completing GIS certification courses, she was promoted to mapping specialist on April 1, 2020, a role she holds today.

Outside of work, Sondra is a proud mother of four sons (ages 39, 29, 24 and 9), two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren, ranging from 17 to 2 years old. She finds joy in spending time outdoors — whether it's training for marathons, climbing mountains, swimming or hunting with her youngest son. She also cherishes traveling to Houston to visit her older boys and making memories with her family.

**DALTON SCHNEIDER** began his career as an apprentice in Dec. 2014 in Phillipsburg. He became a journeyman lineman in Jan. 2018. In Feb. 2022, Dalton took on the role of crew foreman, where he now leads and oversees a lineman team.

Outside of work, Dalton values spending time with his family, including his wife, Tylor, and daughter, Ivy. He also enjoys working on various projects in his free time.



**Kelly Jones**  
20 years



**Sondra Marvin**  
10 years



**Dalton Schneider**  
10 years

## CO-OP MONTH MEMBER APPRECIATION GIVEAWAY

We brought back our popular member appreciation giveaway for cooperative month in October. We had four different featured prizes and gave away additional bill credits each week. Members entered to win using the entry form in the October issue of this magazine on the bill insert, by completing an online form, or while visiting a service center. Here are this year's winners:

### OCT. 4

- ▶ **POWER WASHER** – **RICHARD CHARTIER**, Clyde
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT** – **SHIRLEE FORSHEE**, Concordia
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT** – **GUY STEPHENS**, Jamestown

### OCT. 11

- ▶ **LEAF BLOWER** – **TERRI TIMMONS**, Downs
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT** – **JEAN WALTER**, Cawker City
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT** – **JAMES RICHARDS**, Phillipsburg

### OCT. 18

- ▶ **PORTABLE POWER BANK** – **ILA MAYS**, Logan
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT** – **RITA ROGERS**, Jewell
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT** – **LARRY BROWN**, Prairie View

### OCT. 25

- ▶ **SHOP VAC** – **ALICE KINEN**, Saint Francis
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT** – **BLAINE MARBLE**, Almena
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT** – **JEAN MONTGOMERY**, Smith Center



**Alice Kinen** of Saint Francis won a Shop Vac.



**Richard Chartier** of Clyde won a power washer.

## SAFETY TIP

Lint buildup in your dryer can be a serious hazard, as it can easily catch fire if not cleaned regularly. By taking a few moments to clear out the lint trap before each use, you can improve the efficiency of your dryer and also greatly reduce the risk of a potentially dangerous dryer fire.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

# May Your Holidays Be Merry and Bright Continued from page 12A ▶

safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. You can test yours on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking just few small steps, you can save energy during the holiday season:

Remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

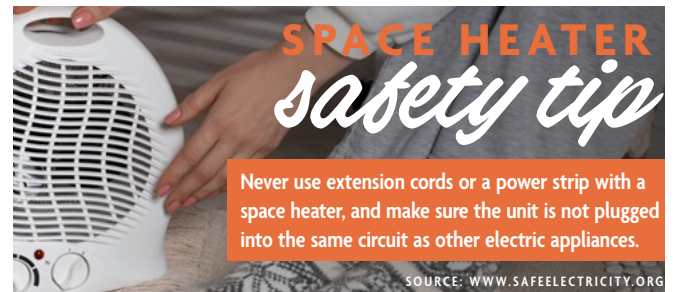
Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save

in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtimes and energy savings.

We hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit [www.prairielandelectric.com](http://www.prairielandelectric.com) and follow us on social media at [www.facebook.com/plecoop](https://www.facebook.com/plecoop). We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright!



## Give the Gift of Electricity

Helping someone with their utility payment is an especially practical and thoughtful gesture and convenient gift for any occasion. When you send this form, along with a check or money order in the amount of your choosing, your gift will be added to the recipient's Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. account and they will receive a Gift of Electricity receipt. (Please allow up to one week for your gift payment to be applied.) For more information, call us at 800-577-3323.

- ▶ Make check or money order payable to Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- ▶ Mail this form and payment to: Prairie Land Electric Cooperative P.O. Box 360, Norton, KS 67654
- ▶ Available year-round. Visit [www.prairielandelectric.com/gift-electricity](http://www.prairielandelectric.com/gift-electricity) for more designs.

**Recipient Information** (Please name a recipient – we are unable to choose a random recipient for you.)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PLEC Account No. (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt/Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize Your Gift Receipt

Gift Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Message : \_\_\_\_\_

