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785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323
www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Call 800-577-3323 to report
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POWER
to make life better

Reliable Power for Today — and Tomorrow



Kirk Girard

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO of Prairie Land Electric, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of our cooperative.

Our team at Prairie Land Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and use new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our territory. You may not realize it, but Prairie Land Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. In 2022, our energy resource mix was made up of 45.1% market, 4.6% natural gas, 35.9% coal, 13.4% wind and 1% solar.

While we're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable

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Happy Holidays

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.

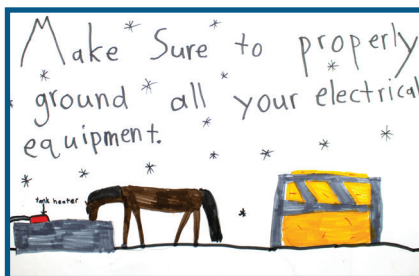
Cooperative Month Safety Poster Contest Winners

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, 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 438 posters from 30 participating classrooms. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety. Congratulations to the winners!

- **FIRST PLACE** – **AHNNA TIMM**, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton; Mrs. Stephanie Atkins, teacher, \$200 donation.
- **SECOND PLACE** – **BLAKELY DOLE**, Northern Valley, Alma; Mrs. Gebhard, teacher, \$150 donation.
- **THIRD PLACE** – **EMARI JOHNSON**, Thunder Ridge, Kensington; Mrs. Ratliff, teacher, \$100 donation.



Ahnna Timm and her winning poster with her parents, teacher and Journeyman Lineworker Tyler Rutherford.



Blakely Dole and her winning poster, with her parents, teacher and Journeyman Lineworker Tyler Rutherford.



Emari Johnson and her winning poster with her teacher, mother and Journeyman Lineworker Jace Winder.

Congratulations Prairie Land Employees for Years of Service

KEATH CHRISTY started his career with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative on Dec. 22, 2003, as an apprentice lineworker in Phillipsburg. In 2006, he advanced to journeyman lineworker, and in 2018, he moved to Norton and accepted the position of metering and apparatus technician.

Keath and his wife, Ashley, live near Norton. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and raising cattle.



Keath Christy
20 Years

JUSTIN MUETING started his career with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative on Dec. 29, 2003, as an apprentice lineworker in Phillipsburg. In 2005, he moved to Concordia, and in 2006, he advanced to journeyman lineworker.

Justin and his wife, Bailey, have three children: Trent, 10; Hadley, 8; and Claire, 4. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.



Justin Mueeting
20 Years

AUSTIN WIEDEN, a Stockton native, started his career with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative on Dec. 23, 2013, as an apprentice lineworker in Phillipsburg. In 2016, he advanced to journeyman lineworker.

Austin and his corgi, Jaxon, live in Phillipsburg. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, camping, following K-State athletics, and spending time with friends and family.



Austin Wieden
10 Years

Reliable Power for Today *Continued from page 12A* ▶

energy sources, we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power is available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Prairie Land Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, helps pinpoint the exact location of an outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Prairie Land Electric save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Periodic drone inspections of poles and lines have allowed us to better assess the condition of the structures. Using drones after a storm helps us evaluate the damage sustained in a more accurate and timely manner.

Prairie Land Electric is also taking part in a sectionalizing study to identify

what protective equipment is needed and where to maintain and improve system reliability. Strategically hardening sections of the system helps minimize the spread of outages beyond their immediate area and avoid bringing down entire feeder lines.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. It's essential to keep power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Kansas and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Prairie Land Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable and safe electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.

BE AWARE OF SCAM CALLS

Do not provide any information or agree to immediate payment. Instead hang up and call 1-800-577-3323.



Youth Trip Applications Accepted Through Jan. 10

Apply today for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20, 2024, and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 12-18, 2024. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip.

Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code above. You can also find the form in your monthly bill, request one from your high school counselor or contact Kenzie Griffiths at 800-577-3323 or kgriffiths@ple.coop.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M. JAN. 10, 2024.



THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIABILITY

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. But that's no longer a guarantee.



Nine states saw rolling blackouts in December 2022 as the **DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY EXCEEDED AVAILABLE SUPPLY.**

Electric cooperatives are working toward meaningful solutions to **ADDRESS THE RELIABILITY CHALLENGES** spreading across the nation. Policymakers should recognize that the electrification of the economy, disorderly retirement and insufficient replacement of existing generation, permitting challenges, supply chain shortages, and the availability of natural gas all **IMPACT THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID.**

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 or on the bill insert, by completing an online form, or while visiting a service center.

We received over 900 entries, and traveled to a different location each week to enlist the help of the local lineworkers to draw winners. Check out our Facebook for videos of our winners, including:

Oct. 6 | Norton

► **POWER WASHER**
DOUGLAS ROGERS
of Concordia

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT**
BETHANY SCHNEIDER
of Phillipsburg

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT**
TERRI BAKER of
Phillipsburg

Oct. 13 | Concordia

► **LEAF BLOWER**
VERNA MAE KNOX
of Clifton

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT**
MARILYN FLESHER
of Concordia

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT**
LEON SHOEMAKER
of Norton

Oct. 20 | Phillipsburg

► **AIR COMPRESSOR**
RANDY THOMAN of
Concordia

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT**
MICHAEL ALLEN
of Concordia

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT**
ALEXANDRIA
WALKER of Atwood

Oct. 27 | St. Francis

► **WET/DRY VAC AND**
\$100 BILL CREDIT
JUDY BISPING
of Clifton

► **\$100 BILL CREDIT**
ANGELA ECK
of Concordia

► **\$50 BILL CREDIT**
LONNY SWANSON
of Scandia



Verna Mae Knox, Clifton, won the leaf blower on Oct. 13.



Judy Bisping, Clifton, won the wet/dry vac on Oct. 27.



Douglas Rogers, Concordia, won a power washer on Oct. 6.

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
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 : _____