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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

Horses Gallop and so Can Power Lines

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to begin bouncing.

They can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

A power company can't prevent galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. However, some power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal,

attached to the line to minimize the motion. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ▶ When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or call 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- ▶ Any utility wire, including telephone

Continued on page 12C ▶



Kirk Girard



**SAVE
THE DATE!**

Annual Meeting

April 9

Prairie Land Board Authorizes Almost \$2.5 Million Capital Credit Retirement

Prairie Land Electric is an electric cooperative owned by the members we serve. As a not-for-profit entity, any revenues in excess of operating costs and expenses are considered as margins, also known as capital credits.

One of the benefits of being a member of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is you share in the margins the cooperative earns through the allocation and retirement of capital credits.

This year, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. is retiring capital credits to its members through check payments or

bill credits in February. The 2024 general retirement retires all distribution capital credits from 1999 and 2000 as well as 1.98% of Sunflower Electric and 6.04% of Mid-Kansas Electric generation and transmission allocations for all years.

The decision to retire capital credits is made by the board of trustees, in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, as they strive toward keeping rates as low as possible while managing the cost of operations, materials and wholesale power.

WISEMAN AND MCKENNA RETIRE

After a combined 88 years of service, **DEAN WISEMAN**, operations manager, and **BRIAN MCKENNA**, maintenance foreman, are hanging up their hard hats.

Wiseman began his career with Norton-Decatur 48 years ago on Dec. 1, 1975. He started out on the line construction crew. In 1978, he became the lead lineman in Phillipsburg, advancing to maintenance foreman in 1981, transferring back to Norton in 1989. He advanced to metering and apparatus technician in 1998, then to operations manager in 2018.

McKenna started as an apprentice lineworker with the Norton construction crew for Norton-Decatur 40 years ago on June 1, 1983. He advanced to lead lineworker in 1987 and became crew foreman in 1993. In 2002, he was promoted to foreman.

Both men had a large family presence at their retirement party on Dec. 20, 2023, and shared memories were plentiful. Wiseman and his wife, Bobbi, have two children and five grandchildren. McKenna and his wife, Jennifer, have four sons and nine grandchildren, with a tenth on the way. They will both be farming in their retirement.



With the retirement of Dean Wiseman (left) and Brian McKenna, the cooperative will miss a combined 88 years of experience. Prairie Land Electric sincerely wishes them a long, prosperous and happy retirement.

What is **Backfeed?**

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

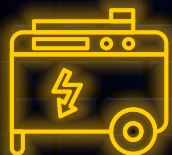
Backfeed is when power flows in reverse. An alternate power source, usually a portable or permanent generator, feeds energy back through a home's electrical system, meter and into the power lines.

Permanent generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician and have an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. A transfer switch transfers a power source safely from its primary source to the backup source.

Never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system.

Ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly.

Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRIC.ORG

Horses Gallop and so Can Power Lines *Continued from page 12A* ▶

or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the types of lines — stay away from all lines.

- ▶ Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- ▶ Keep in mind that a deenergized line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- ▶ Never drive over a downed line. It

could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.

- ▶ If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.

Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT



Our employees look forward to our annual participation in the Christmas Blessings program at Goddard Place near Morland. This year we donated gifts to 32 children.



Prairie Land was proud to partner with Concordia schools for a Christmas light show project. The students measured the building, calculated the lights needed, and programmed a music and light show for all to enjoy.

NOTICE OF RATE MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., will hold a rate meeting on **TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 2024, AT 1 P.M.** The meeting will be held at the Prairie Land Electric office located at 14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton, Kansas.

The purpose of the meeting will be to consider potential tariff changes for Special Contract and Industrial Service and new tariff offering for Renewable Energy Rider/Community Solar. The board may or may not take action at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Members have the right to request review by the Kansas Corporation Commission of any rate change approved by the cooperative as provided by K.S.A. 66-104d(g). If you have questions, please call Prairie Land at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.



CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO A BALLOON RELEASE

Everyone has great intentions when planning a balloon release. However, as soon as balloons are let go, they can go from sentiment to hazard.

Although beautiful to look at, balloons can cause power outages.

LATEX AND MYLAR BALLOONS AND ATTACHED STRINGS AND RIBBONS CAN:

- ▶ Threaten birds and animals (via ingestion and entanglement).
- ▶ Harm marine life.
- ▶ Obstruct the flight path or cause damage to an airplane's engine.
- ▶ Cause ground and ocean trash.
- ▶ Create plastic pollution.

ACCORDING TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:

- ▶ What goes up, must come down: Balloons will fall back to earth either semi-deflated or in tiny and hard-to-retrieve fragments.
- ▶ Only an estimated 5% of all released balloons return intact.
- ▶ Even if balloons are marketed as degradable, they may take several weeks to break down.

ALTERNATIVES TO BALLOONS:

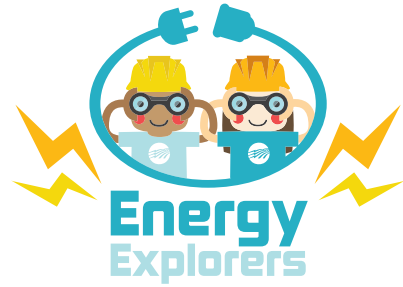
- ▶ Blow bubbles.
- ▶ Light candles.
- ▶ Throw biodegradable confetti.
- ▶ Plant trees or flowers.
- ▶ Paint stones.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

WINTER Safety Word Search

Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **BOLD BLUE** words in the puzzle.



A	P	I	R	P	A	J	G	F	W	D	C	Q	T	W
U	L	B	S	G	W	N	N	P	T	S	A	T	A	T
R	L	A	Y	P	J	I	U	Q	P	Q	N	G	E	O
C	T	W	R	Y	J	D	X	A	R	X	D	B	L	Z
J	F	T	P	M	K	G	C	I	B	T	L	T	C	F
X	B	K	Y	Z	S	E	M	B	Q	G	E	B	D	B
G	B	W	B	Z	H	K	T	Z	H	J	H	R	M	X
C	V	X	J	E	B	X	S	X	B	Q	C	K	V	A
V	I	M	A	B	O	K	A	T	C	S	I	K	F	E
X	Y	T	Q	Y	K	J	S	F	N	Q	V	T	J	W
L	E	V	J	A	N	V	U	W	C	B	A	P	A	W
R	T	R	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	O
W	Z	B	K	R	Y	X	S	B	V	A	Q	O	U	E
S	D	R	O	C	N	O	I	S	N	E	T	X	E	P
I	F	J	R	W	K	J	B	Q	P	U	B	D	T	Z



- ▶ Never overload electrical outlets with too many **ELECTRONICS**.
- ▶ Test smoke and carbon monoxide **ALARMS** every month.
- ▶ Never leave a **CANDLE** burning in an empty room.
- ▶ Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from a **SPACE HEATER**.
- ▶ **EXTENSION CORDS** should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.