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**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS



Attention High School Juniors: Win a Free Trip!

If you are a high school junior and would like to increase your leadership skills, meet new friends and travel, apply for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. or Steamboat Springs, Colorado, sponsored by Prairie Land Electric.

On June 18-25, 2020, students will join 1,800 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Participants visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as Capitol Hill.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp on July 10-16, 2020, students will join youth from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities and learn about electric cooperatives.



2019 Youth Tour winners near the White House in Washington, D.C.



2019 Camp winners at Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

To apply for the contest, complete and return the application below to Prairie Land Electric by **JAN. 10, 2020**.

For more information, check with your high school counselor or call Anna Foley at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.

Application for 2020 Youth Tour Contest – Due Jan. 10, 2020

To apply, please complete the form below and return to Prairie Land Electric, P.O. Box 360, Norton, KS 67654. Students must be a junior in high school during the 2019-2020 school year to apply.

Applicant name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ School Name: _____ Year in School: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s): _____ Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Your electric service provider: _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2020 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.

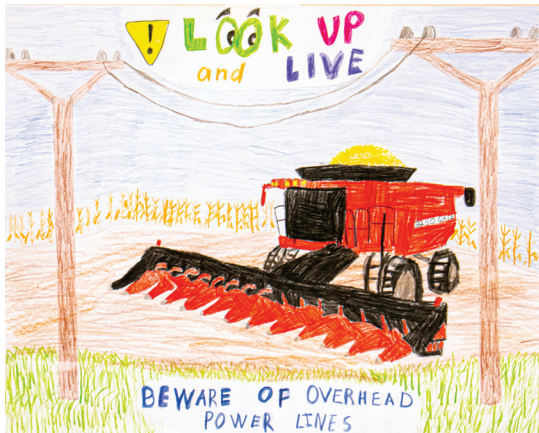
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cooperative Month Poster Contest Winners

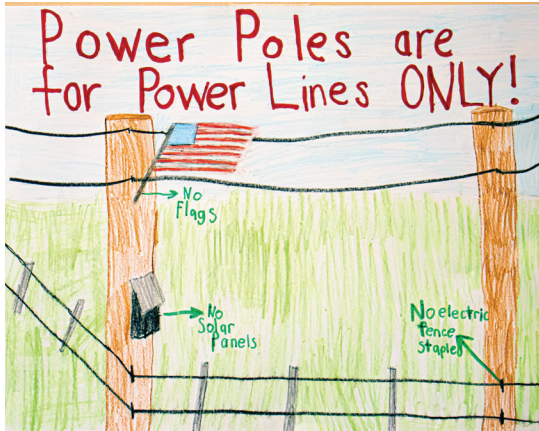
To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, Prairie Land held a poster contest for third graders across its 18-county service territory. Students used their creativity to draw posters of electrical safety at home or school. Students were encouraged to be as creative as possible.

The top three poster winners were awarded a brand new bike and helmet. As an incentive for teachers to allow their classes to participate, the winning classroom teachers received a check from Prairie Land to use for classroom supplies.

- ▶ **1st Place** – **STORMY GUTTERY**, Osborne Grade School. Alison Lecuyer, teacher, \$200 for classroom supplies.
 - ▶ **2nd Place** – **GRADY BREINER**, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton. Teresa Schulze, teacher, \$150 for classroom supplies.
 - ▶ **3rd Place** – **AXTEN MCKENNA**, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton. Pam David, teacher, \$100 for classroom supplies.
- Prairie Land received 448 posters. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety practices. Congratulations!



Stormy Guttery holds her winning poster beside her parents Shana and Brice Guttery. Alison Lecuyer, third grade teacher at Osborne Grade School, accepts her check for \$200.



Grady Breiner holds his winning poster, and Teresa Schulze, third grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, accepts her check for \$150.



Axten McKenna holds his winning poster, and Pam David, third grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, accepts her check for \$100.



Jones Celebrates 15 Years of Service



Kelly Jones
15 years

Prairie Land extends their congratulations and appreciation to Kelly Jones for his years of service to our members and cooperative.

KELLY JONES was hired on Dec. 6, 2004, on a temporary basis working as a technician in our satellite TV department. On Feb. 1, 2007, he was hired permanently as a technical assistant, the position he currently holds with Prairie Land.

Jones and his wife, Lana, have three daughters and eight grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys camping, fishing and playing in a band.

Avoid Overloading Your Home's Electrical System

We're often told to not overload our schedules or our plates, but what about our home's electrical system? Turns out it is not a good idea, as doing so can cause damage and put your family at risk.

Overloading the circuits in our home is sometimes not as obvious as cramming too many events on our calendar or overfilling our ice cream bowl.

An overload simply means too many things are running on one or more electrical circuits in your home and there is more demand than supply. When this happens, it can cause a minor inconvenience, like damage to an appliance, or a major one like a power outage or a fire.

To Prevent Overloading Circuits, Consider These Tips

- ▶ Although tempting, don't plug too many things in using extension cords, power strips or multi-outlet converters. Overdoing it can overload and overheat a circuit.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for loose connections or damaged or corroded wires, which can also cause an

overload or fire. If you continually upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's circuits may not be able to handle the increased load.

- ▶ Do not plug in multiple devices or appliances into an outlet at the same time, exceeding the outlet's capacity. Do not use extension cords with major appliances.

Consult an Electrician if You Notice the Following:

- ▶ Warm or discolored outlets or outlet cover plates.
- ▶ Flickering, dimming or blinking lights or any other strange lighting behavior.
- ▶ Items in your home frequently cause a mild shock.
- ▶ A burning odor that has no source.
- ▶ Unusual sounds coming from outlets.
- ▶ Fuses that blow or trip frequently.

Although the majority of a home's electrical system is out of sight, out of mind, don't take overload symptoms lightly and consult an electrician with concerns.

KILOWATT TIPS

Use Your Space Heater Safely

Space heaters can help warm a room while giving your household heating system a break. If you plan to use a space heater, make sure it fits your needs and use it with safety in mind. Prairie Land offers these tips:



Kilowatt

- ▶ Look for one that stops heating if it is tipped over. Make sure the heater has been tested by a nationally recognized laboratory and includes up-to-date safety features.
- ▶ Place your space heater on a hard, level surface out of high traffic areas and away from flammable materials. Keep it at least 3 feet from furniture, bedding or drapes.
- ▶ If you have children or pets, make sure cords are not placed under rugs or carpet as they could cause a tripping hazard.
- ▶ Always plug your heater directly into an outlet rather than using an extension cord.
- ▶ Use the heater in areas that are continually occupied. Always turn off your heater completely if you are not in a nearby area to monitor it and before you go to sleep.
- ▶ Don't use your space heater in areas that may become wet, such as bathrooms or kitchens.
- ▶ If your heater requires fuel, make sure to use the kind specified by the manufacturer. Ensure the area is properly vented to avoid getting deadly carbon monoxide in the home.

Be sure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at every level of the home. It is especially important you have alarms installed near bedrooms to protect you while you sleep. Check every six months that each alarm has fresh batteries.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25, and
Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Five Employees Participate in Lineman Rodeo

The 36th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo & Expo was held Oct. 16-19, 2019, in Overland Park at the Overland Park Convention Center and in Bonner Springs at the National Agriculture Center & Hall of Fame. The event began with two days of free safety training and ended with a day of competition. This was the first year Prairie Land Electric participated. Safety Coordinator **GARRETT WILLOUR** served as a judge and contestants included Journeymen **TOM HUBER**, **BUTCH HAMEL** and **JAROD ROHR** and Apprentice **JAMESON NIELSEN**.

The Lineman's Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks. The first Lineman's Rodeo was held in September 1984, with 12 participating teams from Kansas and Missouri. The primary purposes of the event then and now are to help maintain a focus on safety and safe work practices, provide a forum for the public to better understand and recognize the technical craft skills the linemen have, and provide an opportunity for the linework professionals to receive recognition for their skills. One other purpose has always been for the participants to have fun,



From left: Garrett Willour, Apprentice Jameson Nielsen, and the Journeymen Team consisting of Butch Hamel, Tom Huber and Jarod Rohr. Willour served as a judge for the competition portion of the Lineman's Rodeo held in October.

while sharing knowledge with others in their trade from different companies and different parts of the country.

"This was our first year attending the rodeo and its events, and it was impressive," said Garrett Willour, who attended the event as a judge. "We heard great speakers at the safety conference, saw innovative new products at the trade show, and the rodeo was 'as billed.' The best part for me was seeing

the linemen and linewomen competing while their families cheered them on!"

Many of the skills required in the competition are less frequently used these days but still critical, like climbing, working off a pole, and task work using hot sticks rather than gloves. These opportunities for linemen enhance their skills and keep them fresh making them more productive all while keeping safety during the competition at the forefront.



Left: Tom Huber and Butch Hamel compete in the journeyman competition. Middle: The Prairie Land team wore shirts in honor and memory of former lineman Lonnie Kellerman. Right: Linemen came to compete in Overland Park from all across the world.