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PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

ATTENTION High School Juniors

Applications for the 2020 Youth Tour contest are now available. See your high school counselor or contact:
ANNA FOLEY
afoley@ple.coop
785-877-3323

McDonald Completes 40 Years of Service

Prairie Land extends its congratulations and appreciation to John McDonald for his years of service to our members and cooperative.



John McDonald
40 Years

JOHN MCDONALD began his career on Nov. 5, 1979, with Centel Electric as an apprentice lineman in Smith Center. In 1983, he advanced to journeyman lineman. McDonald currently works on the maintenance crew in Smith Center.

McDonald became a Prairie Land employee with the Aquila, Inc., acquisition in April 2007.

He and his wife, Julie, have three children, Angela, Matthew and Cade, and six grandchildren.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and keeping busy with his grandchildren's activities.

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee



Rachel Pfannenstiel

RACHEL PFANNENSTIEL began her employment with Prairie Land on Sept. 27, 2019, as a customer service representative.

For the past seven years, Pfannenstiel worked for Dr. Craig Krizek as a dental assistant.

Pfannenstiel and her husband, Blake, have three children, Jessa, 6; Annie, 5; and Avery, 2.

"I am looking forward to serving the members of Prairie Land," Pfannenstiel said.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and watching Nebraska football.



Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, in observance of the holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kensington Revitalization



Left: This mural was still new when it was destroyed by weather. It needed to be recreated on a stronger surface. Right: The mural was restored on metal panels attached to wooden poles.



If you've been to Kensington, KS, lately, you might notice something fresh and new. In preparation for the 150th annual Veteran's Day celebration, Denise Miller and her students from Thunder Ridge High School took on an aggressive plan to beautify Main Street. They invited Kensington residents to work alongside the students in showing pride in their community. Even Prairie Land Electric got involved!

The plans and designs were created by the students in advance, and action started in September. Several empty buildings were painted and revitalized. A new tribute to veterans was added, and a unique outside dining pergola was built. A mural that was painted just last year, only to be destroyed by storms, was recreated on a more permanent surface.

Miller provided frequent updates and pictures of the progress to her community online. A city-wide cleanup started on Sept. 5. That day, Prairie Land crews brought some poles to donate and used the digger to set them in the location for the new mural. About a week



Prairie Land donated poles and sent crews to use the digger truck to set them. The poles are to support the panels for the new mural.

later, the students installed the supports for the mural, so that crews from Prairie Land could come back the next day and mount the metal.

These projects provided real-life skills for the students to work on, and the additional assistance provided by the rest of the community gave everyone a chance to have tangible evidence of their community pride.

The results were very satisfying. "I'm just so thrilled with all the work that has been accomplished," said Miller. "I'm proud of our students for investing in their hometown."

For more information, visit the City of Kensington's website: www.kensingtonks.net/post/news-for-9-17-19.



Students attached the supports for our crews to mount the heavy metal panels.

2020 Trustee Election Process

The Bylaws of the Cooperative call for the following positions to be elected in the 2020 Trustee Election:

District 1 – Cheyenne and Rawlins counties

▶ **MIKE ROGERS** of Saint Francis currently holds this position.

District 2 – Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties

▶ **KEITH ROSS** of Long Island currently holds this position.

District 4 – Smith and Jewell, Osborne and Mitchell counties

▶ **RONALD G. GRIFFITH** of Smith Center currently holds this position.

District 5 – Republic, Washington, Cloud and Clay counties

▶ **JERRY GALLAGHER** of Concordia currently holds this position.

A nominating committee has been appointed to meet and nominate candidates for these positions. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the positions, contact a member of the committee to discuss your nomination. The committee will meet on **DEC. 17, 2019**, at 1 p.m. in the Prairie Land Electric office at 14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton. The members of the nominating committee are:

- ▶ **ROGER ZWEYGARDT** of St. Francis
785-332-3458
- ▶ **DICK E. AMES** of Long Island
785-854-7695

- ▶ **RODNEY BELLEAU** of Hill City
785-421-8149
- ▶ **DENNIS HANSEN** of Smith Center
785-282-3211
- ▶ **JERRY STENBERG** of Clyde
785-243-0129

Nominations may also be made by petition. Interested candidates should contact the Norton office to request the appropriate form.

The petition must be signed by not less than 25 members of the district for which the trustee is to be elected. Petitions must be delivered to the Norton office by 5 p.m. on **JAN. 10, 2020**. All nominations shall be posted in the Norton office.

The election shall be conducted on an “at large” basis; therefore every member of Prairie Land Electric is eligible to vote for all positions in the election. Upon completion of the nominating process, voting materials will be mailed to Prairie Land members by **JAN. 25, 2020**. The bylaws, as amended, require the use of mail ballots for trustee elections. Ballots and a paid postage return envelope will be furnished for the member to use.

BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE NORTON OFFICE BY 5 P.M. ON MONDAY, FEB. 10, 2020.

An Election and Credentials committee will count the ballots by Feb. 20, 2020, and the election results will then be announced.

If you have questions regarding this year’s election, please call the Prairie Land office in Norton at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.

KILOWATT’S TIPS



Kilowatt

Outdoor Lighting SAFETY



When using extension cords, make sure they are rated for outdoor use.



Use outlets with GFCI protection when decorating outdoors.



Never hang lights using tacks, nails or screws; instead use insulated or plastic hooks.



Only use outdoor-rated lights. Strands designed for indoor use cannot withstand the elements.



Avoid using aluminum ladders when hanging lights outdoors and always steer clear of power lines.



THE INVISIBLE KILLER

CARBON MONOXIDE

Known as the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is produced from a variety of household appliances. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people and animals are in danger.

Sources of carbon monoxide include:

- ▶ Cars or trucks
- ▶ Small engines
- ▶ Stoves
- ▶ Lantorns
- ▶ Grills
- ▶ Fireplaces
- ▶ Gas ranges
- ▶ Portable generators
- ▶ Furnaces

FALL SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS!

Read the safety tips below and fill in the blank with the correct term from the word bank.



1. Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.
2. An adult should always stay in the kitchen when something is _____.
3. Smoke alarms should be tested every _____ to ensure they are working.
4. Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced at least once every _____ or right away if they start to “beep.”
5. Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.
6. Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, toaster and other cooking _____.



WORD BANK	APPLIANCES	YEAR	CANDLES
	COOKING	MATCHES	MONTH

Answer Key: 1 matches 2 cooking 3 month 4 year 5 candles 6 appliances