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

PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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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

Electricity Provides Powerful Value

There are aspects of our lives that become sort of a daily routine. A person gets ready for work, gets in their car and might drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, they might drive to the nearest fast-food location. Once they finally end the day at home, they may stream an episode or two of their favorite shows before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money, we begin to think about our daily routine and how much value it provides compared to the money spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink is \$10, and a Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses total around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. Even with a packed lunch, having a daily latte still costs about \$120 a month. This got me

thinking — is this the best value for the money?

The average monthly electric bill for residential members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is around \$120, or about \$4 per day. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte.

I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices, refrigerate food, and have hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also

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Kirk Girard

DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE DAILY COST OF ELECTRICITY IS \$4,* OR ABOUT \$120 PER MONTH?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases.

That's real value.

WHERE DO YOU FIND Value?



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

SOURCES: PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC (*BASED ON 813 KWH AVERAGE), MONEYGEEK AND CNET

Youth Tour Winners Experience Our Nation's Capital

GAVIN HUGHES and **ISAAC STAMPER**, rising seniors from Smith Center High School and Plainville High School, represented Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 14-20. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and honed their leadership abilities alongside peers from the electric cooperative community.

Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a lively dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by State Treasurer Steven Johnson and Kansas Rep. Kyle Hoffman, both youth tour alumni. The group then headed to Washington, D.C., to explore iconic landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, White House, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. They also visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums to further enrich their appreciation for history and culture.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day on June 19, students listened to a lineup of motivational speakers. Among them were Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, NRECA's CEO Jim Matheson, representatives from the NRECA International Program and the 2024 National Youth Spokesperson, Hayley Dorsey.

Students also met with U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran to discuss issues important to them.

"I enjoyed walking through all of the Smithsonian museums," Stamper said. "I was inspired by Senator Jerry



The youth visited the Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) memorial. FDR's New Deal included the Rural Electrification Act, passed by Congress on May 20, 1936. This law allowed the federal government to make low-cost loans to farmers to create non-profit cooperatives to bring electricity to rural America.

Moran being from the same small town and community as myself."

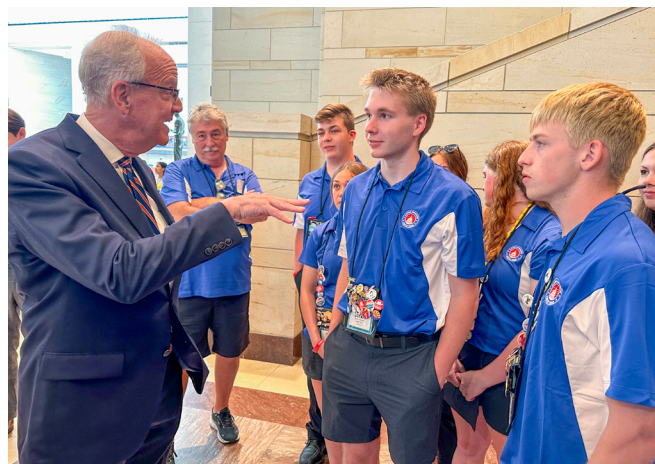
For Hughes and Stamper, attending the youth tour as a representative of the cooperative was a meaningful experience.

"The Holocaust Memorial Museum had the biggest impact on me," Hughes said. "It showed me a lot that I didn't know. Getting to see the memorials for some of the wars that some of my family fought in was very inspiring."

Students who attend the 2024 Youth Tour may also apply for the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) Auxiliary Scholarship and the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship.

Sponsoring local students for Youth Tour is one of the most important ways that Prairie Land upholds the cooperative principle of education, training and information. We are proud to have this unique opportunity to help amplify the leadership skills of the next generation.

Gavin Hughes, Smith Center, poses in front of the White House.



Isaac Stamper (right), representing Prairie Land, and Ryan Garvert (center), representing Western Cooperative Electric, speak with fellow Plainville native, U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, (left) ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

KATS CELEBRATES RETIREMENT



NORMAN KATS retired on July 3, 2024, after more than 38 years of service. His family and friends gathered in June to congratulate him. Norman is pictured in the middle surrounded by his children, grandchildren and other family.

Ketterl Completes 25 Years of Service

SPENCER KETTERL began his employment with Prairie Land on Aug. 19, 1999, working on the construction crew in the Bird City area.

In 2002 he relocated to the Oberlin area as an apprentice lineworker. Since then, he has advanced to a journeyman lineworker and is currently a maintenance foreman.

Ketterl and his wife, Krickit, have two adult children, Ryan and Taylor. In his spare time, he enjoys working on the family farm and hunting.



Spencer Ketterl
25 Years

Electricity Provides Powerful Value *Continued from page 12A* ▶

remained relatively cost-stable as compared to other common expenses.

As a member-owned cooperative, Prairie Land Electric does everything in our power to ensure electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors that impact the price of electricity — some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance, and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or

taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we also need it to be reliable.

As a member-owned cooperative, we consider the impact of costs on our members by striving to keep the rates reasonable while prioritizing safe and reliable service.

You can be assured, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative always keeps you at the forefront of our minds and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money, as our mission is to improve the quality of life for our members and support our communities by providing safe, reliable energy services and education.

METER TAMPERING IS NOT WORTH IT.



For your safety, never tamper with or remove a meter. Doing so could result in an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network.

ONLY ELECTRIC UTILITY CREWS CAN PROPERLY AND SAFELY DISCONNECT A METER. They are trained in safe and proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

METER FACTS

- ▶ Tampering with a meter is illegal in most states.
- ▶ Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- ▶ Accessing the backside of a meter can generate life-threatening electrical arcs.
- ▶ Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.
- ▶ Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or dedicated disconnection point.
- ▶ There is no guarantee that a structure will be de-energized by pulling a meter.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Delays Drive Members to Change Payment Methods

Mail doesn't always travel the most direct route from your local post office to the intended destination. Even if it is headed across the street, all mail is routed through processing and distribution centers — often hundreds of miles away.

Delays and backlogs at large processing, sorting and distribution centers, including those in Kansas, have been concerning enough to make the local news throughout 2024. The result? **PRAIRIE LAND IS RECEIVING LATE PAYMENTS FROM SOME MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.**

Payments received after the due date result in late payment fees, disconnect notices and potentially disconnection of service.

Prairie Land members can avoid mail delays by choosing one of the following alternative payment methods:

- ▶ **PAY-IN-PERSON.** Members may pay their bill in person at our Norton or Concordia service centers.
- ▶ **PAY-BY-PHONE.** Call our automated phone service at 844-241-0263 at any time of day or night to make a payment.
- ▶ **PAY ONLINE.** Another convenient alternative is to pay online with SmartHub at www.prairielandelectric.com or using the SmartHub app on your Android or Apple smartphone. You can create a SmartHub account for

easy monthly payments or make a one-time payment (no login required) by clicking the "Make a Payment" button on our homepage. SmartHub is completely free, safe and secure.

- ▶ When paying online, be sure to pay directly through Prairie Land rather than using a third-party payment service — insuring your payment is on-time and applied immediately to your Prairie Land Electric account. Even better — you avoid third-party fees!
- ▶ Third-party processors often charge your bank account immediately but mail a check to Prairie Land, delaying your bill payment for days. Payments are not applied to your electric account until received by Prairie Land.
- ▶ **AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS.** This is the most worry-free of all payment options. Use SmartHub or our Pay-by-Phone service to set up your bank account or a debit/credit card for recurring payments drafted on the due date. For more details or to discuss the best option for your account, call 800-577-3323.



SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SOLAR POWER WITHOUT THE COST OF INSTALLING ROOFTOP PANELS

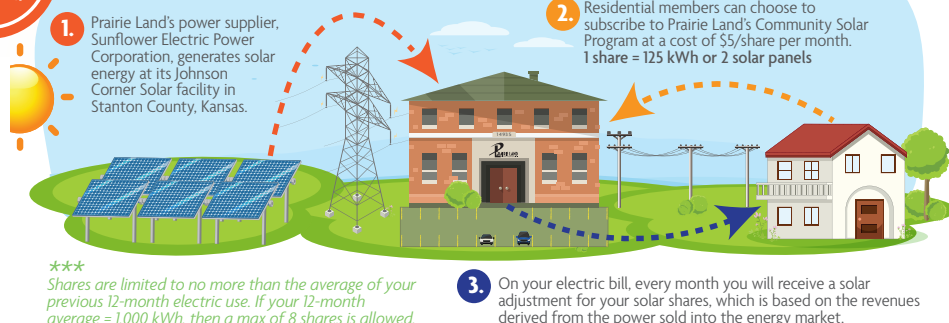
- ☀️ OPEN TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS
- ☀️ AVAILABLE TO OWNERS AND RENTERS
- ☀️ AN AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OWNING AND MAINTAINING A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM
- ☀️ NO ROOF DAMAGE
- ☀️ SIMPLE SIGN-UP AND BILLING
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- ☀️ EASY WAY TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

We're removing barriers to solar energy

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Solar Made Easy!

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative **COMMUNITY SOLAR**



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