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www.prairielandelectric.com

**PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS



## Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc

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**Kirk Girard**  
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### Power Line Issues

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

**POWER**  
*to make life better*

## Beat the Peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Prairie Land Electric must deliver an uninterrupted, 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Prairie Land Electric must provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Prairie Land

Electric, typically pay more for electricity — either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power — during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper — like



**Kirk Girard**

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## SAFETY TIP

A safe work environment increases efficiency and productivity, reduces injury and illness costs, boosts morale, decreases employee turnover and builds a stronger, more resilient safety culture.



## CO-OPS IN THE COMMUNITY



In December, we delivered 41 Christmas gifts donated by employees to Goddard Place near Penokee for the annual Christmas Blessings program. This program has become a favorite for many of our employees and is eagerly anticipated as the holidays come around.

## Electric Co-ops Go the Extra Mile for You

Kansas electric co-ops serve an average of **3 consumer-members** per mile of power line. Other electric utilities serve **32 consumers** per mile. Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members, who we're proud to serve.

## Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee

**SAM SAGE** was hired as an accountant at the Norton office Jan. 3, 2023.

Sam went to Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's in construction science and an MBA in finance.

He is currently taking courses from Fort Hays State University to prepare for the CPA exam.

Sam was raised in and currently lives in Phillipsburg and enjoys golf, softball and working out.



Sam Sage

## Beat the Peak *Continued from page 12A*

a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

While Prairie Land doesn't have a peak energy rates or time of use rates, reducing usage during peak times (generally between 8 and 11 a.m. during winter months and 3 and 7 p.m. during summer months) can help alleviate high power costs for your cooperative and help keep retail rates low.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few degrees, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have

a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the nation. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.



**Save the Date**  
for the  
**Prairie Land Electric**  
**Annual Meeting**



## 5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!

**MIND THE THERMOSTAT.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

**GET COZY.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

**DON'T BLOCK THE HEAT.** If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

**BLOCK AIR LEAKS.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

## Does Your Job Require FLAME RESISTANT CLOTHING?

**MAINTAIN IT PROPERLY FOR MAXIMUM PROTECTION**



### Inspect It Often

If your job requires flame-resistant (FR) clothing, evaluate it often and remove items from service that no longer offer optimum protection. When in doubt, throw it out!

The specialized clothing is only as effective as the condition it is in. Just as you would not continue to use damaged equipment or other safety gear, do not use FR clothing that is in poor condition.

### Examples of Damage Include:

#### 1 UNREPAIRED HOLES LARGER THAN 1 INCH

Some manufacturers say that holes should be less than 1 inch and use the size of a pinky fingernail for reference.

#### 2 THREADBARE AREAS



#### 3 RIPS, CUTS OR TEARS



#### 4 STAINS FROM FLAMMABLE SOURCES

#### 5 BROKEN CLOSURES



#### 6 TORN, OPEN OR FRAYED SEAMS

Both employers and employees should speak up and act when FR clothing is compromised.



For specific care and repair instructions, contact the manufacturer.

## Congratulations PLEC Employees!



Ryan Culwell  
20 years

**RYAN CULWELL** is a crew foreman at Saint Francis. He started his employment at the Bird City outpost on Feb. 3, 2003.

"It doesn't feel like 20 years. I feel like I just started working here a few years ago," Ryan said. "I am blessed to have a great job with a great company and I look forward to whatever the future brings our way. My wife, Andi, and I have three grown boys that live all over the US. They keep us traveling to see them in our spare time."



Lynette Jones  
15 years

**LYNETTE JONES** began her employment with Prairie Land on Feb. 1, 2008, as a customer service representative in Norton. In 2009, she advanced to billing clerk, and in 2014, she became a senior billing clerk, the position she currently holds.

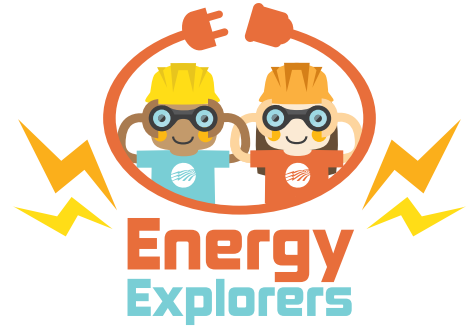
She and her husband, Jeff, have three daughters, two granddaughters and one grandson.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading and taking long walks.

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the **BOLDED** text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.



▶ Never place extension **RDSOC** under rugs or carpet.

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▶ Make sure electrical cords are not **YRAFDE** or broken.

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▶ Smoke **MAALSR** should be tested every month.

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▶ Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **ITPR** on them.

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▶ Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **SHETEAR**.

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▶ Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

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Answer Key: 1. cords 2. frayed 3. alarms 4. trip 5. heaters 6. water