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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Annual Meeting Held in Two Locations

After having to cancel the annual meeting in 2020 due to Covid, members had a lot to catch up on this year. While continued Covid restrictions made the traditional lunch impractical, Prairie Land offered the meeting in two locations for the first time. The main speakers presented from the headquarters in Norton, and there was a live video feed at the American Legion in Concordia.

Trustee Keith Ross opened the meeting with an invocation. Once a quorum was determined, board president Ronald Griffith called the meeting to order and introduced the trustees present in both Norton and Concordia. Special guests were recognized. Motions passed to dispense with the reading of the certificate of mailing and the minutes from the 2019 meeting.

John McClymont provided an official report of the 2021 trustee election. **ERIC WITMER** of District 2, **ROBERT PAXSON** of District 3, **OTTO LEVIN** of District 4, and **WILLIAM L. PETERSON** of District 5 were all re-elected to their positions on the board of trustees.

CEO Kirk Girard gave a presentation that recapped the financials and important news from 2020. He also went over the winter weather event from February 2021 and the impact it had on power supply and bills.

Door prizes were drawn at both locations. In Concordia, the television went to Martin Molter and the air fryers went to Mrs. Chester Greenberg and Galen Deneault. Everett Ford received \$100 off his electric bill and Louis Thrash received a \$50 credit. In Norton, Joseph Pashia took the \$100 credit, and Elden Odle got the television. The air fryers went to Margaret Pashia and Ed Witt. Roberta McAllister received \$50 off her electric bill and David and Leanna Davignon took home a Keurig.



Senior CSR and operations assistant Jamie LeDuc was prepared to meet guests attending in Concordia for the first time.



Special guests: Key Accounts Director Annie Erbert and Manager of Communications Cindy Hertel of Sunflower; retired trustee Ken Carter, and retired CEO Chuck Look.



Ann Cox and Rachael Pfannenstiel from billing registered members for door prizes.



A fully extended bucket truck marked the spot.



The recently completed safety demonstration model to use for public education was on display.

STORMS CAN BRING HIDDEN ELECTRICAL DANGERS



OUTSIDE

Severe weather can cause damage to overhead power lines. That damage could be noticeable — a downed line across an open road, for instance. However, it may not be as obvious if it is camouflaged by storm damage.

Whether you see a downed line or you suspect one could be hidden under debris or standing water do not go near the area. Stay away and call 911, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the line. Warn others to stay away as well.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.

AT HOME

Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords.

If your home's electrical system has been damaged, waterlogged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by a professional electrician before using any electricity (inside or out).

ALWAYS presume a downed power line is energized, dangerous and deadly.

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors



Foreman LeRoy Hays, Phillipsburg, with his son Ryland Hays.



Garin Cooper, St. Francis, is the son of foreman Greg Cooper.



Gus Hesse, St. Francis, is the son of crew foreman Marshall Hesse.



Norton graduates are Matthew Schmidt Atkins, son of project manager John Atkins, Brynn Glennemeier, daughter of crew foreman Gregg Glennemeier, Mason Urban, son of journeyman lineman Dominic Urban, and Elijah Winters, son of network administrator Melanie Romey.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

SOURCE: NRECA



Bucket Truck Egg Drop Challenge

On May 7, two lucky Prairie Land employees shared in an hour of fun with a local class of third graders who were doing a junior engineering project and needed special equipment.

Students in Mrs. Atkins' class at Eisenhower Elementary were competing in a classic egg drop challenge. While in class, they designed protective packaging for their own fresh egg. Then it was time to put their skills to the test.

Shortly after lunch, Prairie Land employees Shawn Miller and Garrett Willour drove a big bucket truck to the school and set up near the playground. The truck needs time to get in position and extend the outriggers that keep it stabilized while in use.

Once the truck was ready, the kids geared up with a harness and hard hat before climbing into the bucket with Shawn and their packaged egg. They slowly lifted into the air and dropped the

container onto a plastic tarp on the ground below.

For the assigned drop, only one egg was sacrificed, but several kids wanted to test from higher up, and there were, unfortunately, more egg casualties.

It was an unforgettable day, and hopefully, the start of some engineering dreams for these talented kids.



It was a fun activity, but safety is always the top priority, so safety coordinator Garrett Willour was on site to get the kids geared up and ready to ride safely. His daughter, Adlie, also happened to be in the class.



KILOWATT'S TIPS

Tackle DIY Projects Safely

Building a new deck, remodeling the basement, fixing the garage door, planting a tree — there is always a project to complete around the house. The item that needs to be at the top of your list, no matter the project, is electrical safety.

Safety tips to keep in mind when tackling DIY projects include:

- ▶ Take a few minutes to prepare. Make sure you have the right tools for the job, and check cords for any cracks or frayed insulation and proper connections.
- ▶ Take note of potential hazards in the work area. Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles, when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes; or when doing roof repair work.
- ▶ Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Never trim trees near power lines — leave that to the professionals.
- ▶ Use heavy-duty, three-prong extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove or bend back the third prong. It is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of electrocution or shock.
- ▶ Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), or use a portable GFCI. Have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home — such as the kitchen, bath, and laundry.

For more information on staying safe around electricity while you complete your DIY project, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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



Kilowatt

SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD

Water and electricity never mix! When you're cooling off in the swimming pool, remember to practice electrical safety. Complete the pool safety crossword puzzle below.

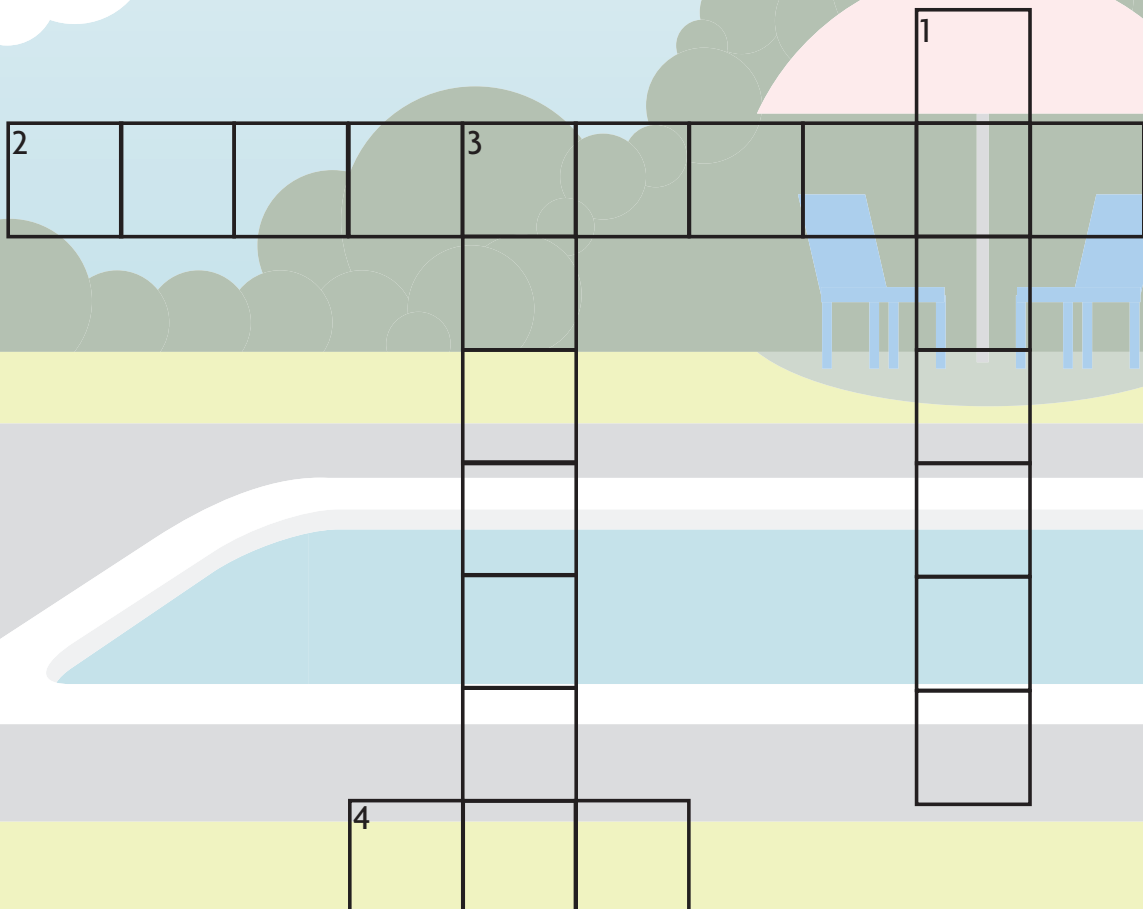
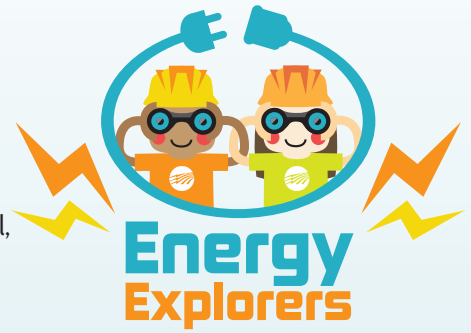
Hint: Check your answers in the key below.

1 Down: When possible, use _____ operated devices when outside near a swimming pool.

2 Across: Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.

3 Down: If you hear _____, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.

4 Across: All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them _____.



Answer Key — 1 Down: battery 2 Across: electrical 3 Down: thunder 4 Across: Dry