



Bluestem NEWS

Bluestem Electric Cooperative

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Contact Us

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At Bluestem Electric, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As general manager, it is my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you will

see Bluestem Electric hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution attendees on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

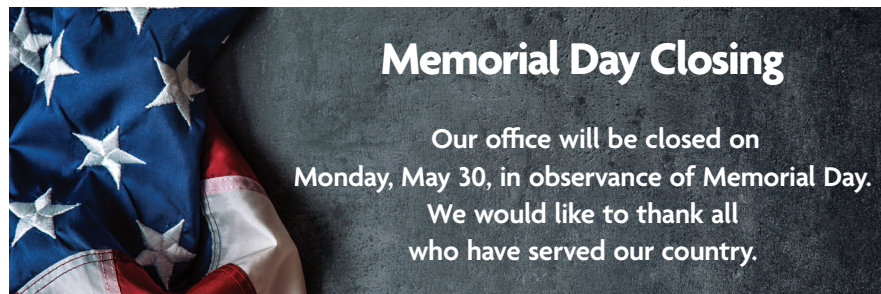
Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the many electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

FRAYED WIRES POSE A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive

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Mike Morton



Memorial Day Closing

Our office will be closed on
Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.
We would like to thank all
who have served our country.

23rd Annual Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

Highlights

Bluestem Electric Cooperative held its 23rd annual meeting on March 28, 2022, at the United Methodist Church Family Life Center in Clay Center. Approximately 55 registered members, their guests, trustees, a few of the 10 scholarship winners and employees attended the meeting.

Suzanne Lane, Executive Vice President/CEO of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), was our guest speaker. Other guests in attendance were Shana Read, Director of Education and Training and Mindi Pfannenstiel, Director of Finance and Human Resources, both with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected to the board were **MARK DIEDERICH** and **RICHARD RIDDER**. Newly elected to the board was **MICHAEL LEITCH**.

Prior to the meeting, members and guests were treated to apple, peach and cherry cobbler, ice cream, coffee and tea. After the business meeting and remarks, the guests played Bluestem Bingo for more than 40 prizes, bill credits and gift cards. Three names were drawn from the members present for cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50.



Members played Bluestem Bingo for prizes at the meeting.



Board President Richard Ridder delivers the President's Report and welcomes the membership.



Jason Moore, Trisha Bradley, Jennifer Soeken and Mary Hobbs greet members at registration.



General Manager Mike Morton introduces and congratulates staff for its No Lost Time Accident Award for 416,352 hours worked from 2016 to 2021 with no lost time accidents.

2022 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2022 Bluestem Electric Cooperative Scholarship winners **JAYDEN BRETHOUR, KARA HAFENSTINE, EMMA KASSELMAN, OLIVIA LUBBERS, DELAYNEY LUNSWAY, BRAYDEN MESEKE, LANE MUSSELMAN, AMANDA SIMMONS, COY STAMM AND ELAINA WHITE.**

Bluestem Electric Cooperative's scholarship program provides 10 scholarships totaling \$9,000 to high school seniors whose parents are members of Bluestem Electric Cooperative.

Winners are selected based upon online application data, scores received from an electric cooperative test, and a personal interview with a panel of six scholarship committee judges.

What a great group of young people we have representing Bluestem Electric Cooperative! We wish each of them success as they complete their senior year in high school and begin their college education.



Jayden Brethour

JAYDEN BRETHOUR is the son of Clay and Kristin Brethour of Wamego. Jayden is homeschooled and plans to major in finance and accounting at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Brayden Meseke

BRAYDEN MESEKE is the son of Kip and Brenda Meseke of Alma. Brayden attends Wabaunsee High School and plans to study elementary education, agriculture or health services at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Kara Hafenstine

KARA HAFENSTINE is the daughter of Brian and Jamie Hafenstine of Alma. Kara attends Wabaunsee High School and plans to major in kinesiology and play softball at Ottawa University in Ottawa.



Lane Musselman

LANE MUSSELMAN is the son of Michael and Melanie Musselman of Clifton. Lane attends Clay Center Community High School and plans to study chemical engineering at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Emma Kasselmann

EMMA KASSELMAN is the daughter of Kraig and Monica Kasselmann of Olsburg. Emma attends Rock Creek High School and plans to study agriculture economics with a specialty in pre-law at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Amanda Simmons

AMANDA SIMMONS is the daughter of Bruce and Kathy Simmons of Greenleaf. Amanda attends Washington County High School and plans to study business marketing at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Olivia Lubbers

OLIVIA LUBBERS is the daughter of Brian Lubbers and Jennifer Akers of St. George. Olivia attends Rock Creek High School and plans to play volleyball and study theology at Manhattan Christian College and also study pre-med/biology at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Coy Stamm

COY STAMM is the son of Curtis and Marlene Stamm of Washington. Coy attends Washington County High School and plans to study agronomy-business at Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Delayney Lunsway

DELAYNEY LUNSWAY is the daughter of Linc and Summer Lunsway of St. George. Delayney attends Manhattan High School and plans to play soccer and study secondary education at Bethany College in Lindsborg or at Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska.



Elaina White

ELAINA WHITE is the daughter of Michael and Jane White of Hanover. Elaina attends Hanover High School and plans to major in secondary education or psychology at University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

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current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

AVOID OVERLOADING CIRCUITS.

Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.

LABEL CIRCUIT BREAKERS TO

understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.


USE EXTENSION CORDS

PROPERLY. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don’t exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our mission is to provide **SAFE, RELIABLE, ENERGY** 24/7, 365 days per year. but equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.


Contact Bluestem for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

May is Electrical Safety Month
Make Electrical Safety a priority this month and every month.

TIP Before planning those outdoor barbecues, make sure patios and pool areas are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.



REMINDER

Be Aware of Utility Poles When Burning

Before burning, check the property for electrical equipment and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages. Always assume any downed power line is energized. Keep everyone away and call 911 immediately. If any poles are damaged by a fire, the person starting the fire could be liable for the damage to Bluestem Electric’s equipment and the cost associated with repairing the damage.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists, you should add more. If you can’t see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered. **SOURCE: ENERGYSTAR.GOV**

