

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Delores Greger
- ▶ Mary Holler
- ▶ Dean Ives
- ▶ Jarek Jellison
- ▶ Janell Knudsen
- ▶ Debroah Kraemer

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

78th CMS Annual Meeting Highlights



CMS welcomed 180 guests and members at the 2024 CMS Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

The 78th Annual Meeting of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on May 2 in Meade. The 180 members and guests attending enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by John Ross of Garden City.

CMS Board President Ron Oliver welcomed members and guests then introduced the board of trustees and General Manager Kirk Thompson. Also in attendance were former operations manager Rusty Blehm and former employee Kent Davis. Other guests were Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and Rebecca Fowler, from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative.

Mr. Thompson announced the 2024 CMS Electric scholarship winners **ELIZABETH HAWLEY**, Meade; **VINCENT LYNN**, Meade; **BLAKE MILLER**, Liberal; **ASHTON PATTERSON**, Protection; **AVA SKINNER**, Hugoton; and **CAMBREE STAPLETON**, Mullinville. Mr. Thompson then presented each recipient in attendance with a certificate and gift recognizing their achievement.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the financial reports as printed in the annual report and presented the manager's report, which updated the members on the:

- ▶ Rate change process.
- ▶ Inflation regarding inputs, equipment and materials.
- ▶ Additional load from cheese plant in Dodge City.
- ▶ Environmental regulations impacting power generation.

Trustees reelected were:

VANESSA REEVER, District 1; **JAMES W. MCKINNEY**, District 2; and **DON NIGHSWONGER**, District 3.

Following the business meeting there were drawings for many door prizes including the grand prizes 43" TVs won by **RUSTY BLEHM** and **BETTY FRIESEN**. **HELEN EDIGER** won the \$250 energy certificate. The winner of the Kindle Fire was **GRACE WALKER**. Many other great prizes were awarded including energy certificates for up to \$100 off the winner's electric bill.

10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could “jump cut” from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

We're accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, we'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

1 WE NEED YOU. When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. We may already know about it, but we rely on you to let us know if your power is out. You can do this by dialing 800-794-2353.

2 OUR EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE AFFECTED TOO. Because we are a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.

3 IT'S A TEAM EFFORT. Every one of our employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

4 WE ASSESS THE SITUATION FIRST. Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

5 RESTORATION IS NORMALLY PRIORITIZED BY THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MEMBERS WE CAN GET BACK

ON IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME. Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

6 OUR EMPLOYEES FACE MANY DANGERS. Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)

7 FLICKERING LIGHTS ARE A GOOD THING. Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these “blinks” are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

8 YOU NEED A BACKUP PLAN. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.

9 OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE TO PLAN, AND EAT. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

10 SOMETIMES IT'S A WAITING GAME. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team works as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem ...

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

To save energy when using your clothes dryer, add a clean, dry towel to damp clothing before starting the cycle. The towel will absorb excess water, reducing drying time. Remove the towel after 15 minutes. If your dryer lacks an autosense drying feature, reduce the timer to about half a normal cycle.

SOURCE: WWW.HOMESANDGARDENS.COM



Be on the

LOOKOUT

We will be starting remote disconnects in August. Please watch our Facebook page and website, www.cmselectric.com, for more information.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP Winners

District 1

BLAKE MILLER, Liberal, graduated from Hugoton High School. He is the son of Curtis and Sonya Miller. Blake plans to attend Kansas State University to study agricultural management.

AVA SKINNER, Hugoton, graduated from Hugoton High School. She is the daughter of CJ and Marcala Skinner. Ava plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study agronomy.



BLAKE MILLER
Hugoton High School

WHISPER AND WISHES PHOTOGRAPHY



AVA SKINNER
Hugoton High School

ROSE LENS

District 2

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, Meade, graduated from Meade High School. She is the daughter of Rockie and Janice Hawley. Elizabeth plans to attend Hesston College to study business and technology.

VINCENT LYNN, Meade, graduated from Meade High School. He is the son of Tony and Marcy Lynn. Vincent plans to attend Pratt Community College to study wildlife management.



ELIZABETH HAWLEY
Meade High School

BECCA UNRUH PHOTO



VINCENT LYNN
Meade High School

KELSEY KELLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

District 3

CAMBREE STAPLETON, Mullinville, graduated from South Central High School. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Sara Stapleton. Cambree plans to attend Hutchinson Community College to study graphic design.

ASHTON PATTERSON, Protection, graduated from South Central High School. She is the daughter of Dwayne and Tammie Thronesbery. Ashton plans to attend Northwestern Oklahoma State University to study business management.



CAMBREE STAPLETON
South Central High School

BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

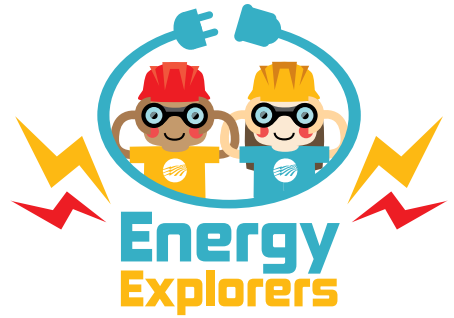


ASHTON PATTERSON
South Central High School

BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.



B H C D F T N U Z R B J R Q G
 O A U F O N H R K Q S H E F V
 M A R N X U J O R W Z N M B L
 W M G B F B X L F P O K M V Z
 X S J A E Z K M O R F S U B T
 E S R P N Q I V P H P R S H V
 X C D L L F U A L A C B K P J
 V K J N A E B E T M E V K V X
 J X O Y E K D U T B C H N I J
 W N P T B I L C P U T Y T Y F
 N C C N J A R O C R C G C D A
 Y T W V C Z A F W G M E W B M
 O D G R I L L A R E O U X W I
 U L T K U S Q N V R S Q U B L
 L E T K S O Q R G O D T O H Y

WORD BANK

- Hamburger
- Spatula
- Hot Dog
- Friends
- Summer
- Apron
- Grill
- Barbeque
- Family
- Tongs



Cooking outdoors is a fun way to spend time with friends and family! By cooking outside, you can save energy indoors and keep your home cooler.