

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Levi Ingram
 - ▶ Eva Lou Koons
 - ▶ David Johanness
 - ▶ Gabino Juarez
 - ▶ Sharon Leeper
 - ▶ Rebekah Mathieu
- Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

79th Annual Meeting Highlights



General Manager Kirk Thompson addresses 220 members and guests attending the annual meeting.

The 79th Annual Meeting of CMS Electric Cooperative Inc. was held on May 1 in Meade.

The members and guests attending the meeting enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by John Ross Catering of Garden City with 220 people being served.

CMS Board President Ron Oliver welcomed members and guests to the 79th Annual Meeting. He introduced the CMS Board of Trustees and General Manager Kirk Thompson. Also

in attendance were former trustee Jeff Headrick, former operations manager Rusty Blehm and former employee Scott Vanderpool. Other guests were Mindi Pfannenstiel, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; Rebecca Fowler, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative; Senator Ron Ryckman; and Representative Gary White.

General Manager Thompson introduced the scholarship winners **BENTLEY FITZGERALD**, Liberal; **KAREN MENDOZA**, Liberal; **COLE NORTON**,

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Scholarship *Winners*



JASMINE STRECKER

Kolson Cook



STRAWBRIDGE STUDIOS.

Bentley Fitzgerald



BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

Emma Jellison



LAUREL & LACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Karen Mendoza



BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

Hayden Napierala



CAMRYN LEE CREATIVE

Cole Norton



ELLEN'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Adeline Woods

Each year, CMS Electric awards six \$1,000 scholarships to students in our service territory. This year, one additional scholarship was sponsored by TPI and awarded to Kolson Cook of District 2, Bucklin.

DISTRICT 1

BENTLEY FITZGERALD, Liberal, will graduate from Liberal High School. She is the daughter of Matthew and Lindsay Fitzgerald.

Bentley plans to attend the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs to study sports management.

KAREN MENDOZA, Liberal, will graduate from Southwestern Heights High School. She is the daughter of Jose and Yolanda Mendoza.

Karen plans to attend Seward County Community College to study civil engineering.

DISTRICT 2

COLE NORTON, Minneola, will graduate from Minneola High School. He is the son of Will and Tiffany Norton.

Cole plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study agriculture.

ADELINE WOODS, Plains, will graduate from Southwestern Heights. She is the daughter of Brent and Mary Beth Woods.

Adeline plans to attend Kansas State University to study pre-veterinary science.

KOLSON COOK, Bucklin, will graduate from Bucklin High School. He is the son of Eli Cook and Stacey and Cami Cook.

William plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study business.

DISTRICT 3

EMMA JELLISON, Protection, will graduate from South Central High School. She is the daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Jellison.

Emma plans to attend Butler Community College to study pre-medical professions.

HAYDEN NAPIERALA, Protection, will graduate from Kansas Connections Academy. She is the daughter of Robert and Heidi Napierala.

Hayden plans to attend Emporia State University to study education.

Congratulations!

79th Annual Meeting Highlights

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Minneola; **ADELINE WOODS**, Plains; **EMMA JELLISON**, Protection; and **HAYDEN NAPIERALA**, Protection. Mr. Thompson then presented each recipient in attendance with a certificate and gift recognizing their achievement. (Not in attendance was Kolson Cook.)

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

- History of CMS Electric;
- Operating Statements for 2023 and 2024;
- High Plains Ponderosa Dairy expansion;
- Digestors; and
- Grant project to purchase a transformer for the Seward Substation.

Trustees elected were **TRAVIS APSLEY** for District 1, replacing Ron Oliver who retired from the board after 21 years of service; and **TODD LEWIS** for District 2 who ran against Michael Johnson; and **CHAD MCMILLIN** for District 3 who was unopposed.



FROM LEFT: General Manager Kirk Thompson with scholarship winners Bentley Fitzgerald, Liberal; Karen Mendoza, Liberal; Cole Norton, Minneola; Adeline Woods, Plains; Emma Jellison, Protection; and Hayden Napierala, Protection. **NOT PICTURED:** Kolson Cook, Bucklin.

Following the business meeting there were drawings for many door prizes including the grand prize Blackstone griddle won by **CLARK COUNTY FEEDERS**. **IVAN REIMER** won the \$250 energy certificate. The winner of the Kindle Fire drawing was **GRACE WALKER**. Many other great prizes were awarded including energy certificates for up to \$100 off the winner's CMS Electric bill.

STAY COOL AND SAFE: BLEND UP A SUMMER SMOOTHIE

On a hot summer day, there's nothing more satisfying than sipping a cold, tropical smoothie. But before you plug in your blender and start whipping up that fruity refreshment, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind — especially in the kitchen where water and appliances mix. Here are some easy but essential electrical safety tips to help you enjoy your summer smoothie safely:

SAFE BLENDING TIPS FOR YOUR KITCHEN

- **DRY HANDS BEFORE PLUGGING IN:** Wet hands and electricity don't mix. Always make sure your hands are completely dry before plugging in or operating your blender.
- **SKIP THE POWER STRIP:** Plug high-wattage appliances like blenders directly into wall outlets to avoid overheating or tripping your power strip.
- **CHECK FOR GFCI OUTLETS:** Outlets near sinks or water sources should be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection to help prevent electrical shock.
- **INSPECT YOUR CORDS:** If your blender has a frayed, cracked or damaged cord or plug, it's time for a replacement. Using damaged appliances is a major safety risk.
- **AVOID OVERFILLING:** Don't fill your blender to the top. Overflowing ingredients can cause spills that may reach electrical parts and pose hazards.
- **UNPLUG BEFORE CLEANING:** Always unplug the blender before trying to remove stuck ingredients or before cleaning. It's a simple step that prevents unexpected starts or shocks.
- **KEEP THE BASE DRY:** Never submerge the blender base in water. Use a damp cloth to wipe it clean instead.

Whether you're blending up a quick breakfast or a poolside treat, following a few simple electrical safety tips can help prevent accidents and keep your summer safe and sweet.

TROPICAL SUMMER SMOOTHIE

Once your blending setup is safe, it's time to treat yourself! Try this tropical smoothie recipe — it's quick, easy and perfect for hot summer days.

- 1 cup frozen mango
- 1 banana
- ½ cup coconut water
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- ½ cup pineapple chunks
- ice as needed

Add mango, banana, coconut water, yogurt, and pineapple to the blender. Blend until smooth. Add ice and blend again to your desired consistency. Pour into glasses and enjoy! Makes 2 servings.



Water Safety Word Scramble

Outdoor water activities and electricity never mix because water is a powerful conductor of electricity. When electrical devices or cords come into contact with water — like at a pool, lake or beach — it can cause serious electric shocks. Keep all electrical items far away from water and always follow safety rules when you're outside near water.

Read the sentences below, then unscramble the **BOLDED** letters to complete the safety tips.



- 1** Never touch electrical **CSEVIED**, switches or plugs when your hands are wet.
- 2** Always place **LACERTCEIL** items like radios, speakers or lights at least 10 feet away from the water's edge.
- 3** After using outdoor electronics, **NGULUP** them and store them away from water to prevent accidents.
- 4** Keep extension **DSROC** far away from water sources to prevent tripping hazards.
- 5** Always pay attention to “no **WMSINIMG**” signs, whether at the pool, beach or lake.

ANSWER KEY
(1) DEVICES (2) ELECTRICAL (3) UNPLUG (4) CORDS (5) SWIMMING