

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
1000 South Wind Dr., P.O. Box 5  
Wamego, KS 66547  
800-558-1580

[www.bluestemelectric.com](http://www.bluestemelectric.com)



# Bluestem NEWS

## Bluestem Electric Cooperative

### Board of Trustees

**Richard Ridder**  
President

**Donald Classen**  
Vice President

**Bruce Meyer**  
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**Stephen O'Shea**  
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Trustee

### Management Staff

**Michael M. Morton**  
General Manager

**Jason W. Moore**  
Assistant Manager

**Trisha Bradly**  
Manager of Accounting and Finance

**Jerod Chaffee**  
Manager of Line Operations

**Ben Easterberg**  
Manager of AMI and IT

**Kevin Heptig**  
Manager of Member Services

### Contact Us

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## FROM THE MANAGER

### Beat the Peak



**Mike Morton**

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, Bluestem Electric Cooperative 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. Bluestem Electric Cooperative 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 Bluestem Electric Cooperative 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

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## Bluestem Election Results

BEC members of the respective districts elected the following cooperative members for three-year terms on the Bluestem Electric Board of Trustees by mail ballot in December 2022. The proposed bylaw revisions were approved.

#### ► DISTRICT 1 POSITION 1

**STEVE OHLDE**, Linn

#### ► DISTRICT 2 POSITION 2

**PATRICIA BLOOMDAHL**, Clay Center

#### ► DISTRICT 3 POSITION 3

**MATT REZAC**, Onaga

#### ► DISTRICT 4 POSITION 2

**DONALD "BO" CLASSEN**, Manhattan



## 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.

## Welcome Logan!



Logan Singular

Bluestem Electric Cooperative welcomes **LOGAN SINGULAR**. Logan started on May 1, 2022 as a journeyman lineman.

Prior to joining Bluestem, Logan worked at the City of Belleville in Belleville, Kansas. He is a graduate of Manhattan Vo-Tech

and has been in the lineman profession since 2013.

Logan and his wife Carly live outside of Clay Center on a farm and have a son, Holden. Logan enjoys spending time outside on the farm with his family.

"I am excited to be part of Bluestem Electric and greatly appreciate this opportunity," Logan said. "I look forward to providing excellent service for many years to come."

## Be Prepared: 5 Tips to Make Your Home More Secure

These days, soaking in daily news can make the world feel like a scary place. We use home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks; all help protect our homes. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:

**1 ASSESS ENTRY POINTS.** Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door can lock and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

**2 LOCK SECOND-FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS.** "Second-story men" are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). Be sure to lock them before you leave.

In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

**3 LOCK THE DOOR TO THE GARAGE.** Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

**4 UPDATE YOUR GARAGE CODE.** Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

**5 DO NOT FORGET SLIDING DOORS.** A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and checking your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



## 2023 Holiday Office Closings

**JANUARY 2**  
New Years Day

**JULY 3 & 4**  
Independence Day

**NOVEMBER 23 & 24**  
Thanksgiving

**MAY 29**  
Memorial Day

**SEPTEMBER 4**  
Labor Day

**DECEMBER 25**  
Christmas



# 2023 Bluestem Electric COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on March 27, 2023, at the Bluestem Electric Warehouse in Wamego. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The annual meeting notice will be included in the March issue of the *Kansas Country Living* Magazine this year. Please look for this issue as there will not be a separate booklet mailing.

Official notice of the annual meeting will be mailed prior to the meeting. Again, this will be included in March *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

We hope that you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

MARCH

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## Beat the Peak

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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 a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

Bluestem Electric's peak hours are between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

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 of 3–6 p.m. 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 consumption 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 U.S. 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.



## 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.

# 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