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4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Dennis Svanes

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

When Summer Turns Up the Heat

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY PREDICTABLE: summer in Kansas.

June 1 marks the beginning of our summer peak season, when air conditioners run steadily, demand climbs, and our electric system works harder than any other point in the year.

This should not come as a surprise. Summer arrives on schedule every year — **UNLIKE THE SPANISH INQUISITION.**

When temperatures rise, electricity use also rises. Air conditioning is the largest driver of summer demand, and during peak hours, the system carries significantly more load than in milder months. That isn't cause for alarm. It just means preparation matters.

Heat affects equipment just as it affects people. Transformers, lines and substations operate under greater stress when the mercury climbs. Add in June thunderstorms — lightning, wind, heavy rain — and you have what is typically one of our busiest months for system damage. When Kansas winds push sideways across an open field, even a fence post might consider shouting, **"RUN AWAY."** Fortunately, our infrastructure is built with more resolve than that.

Agricultural activity increases this time of year as well. Large equipment moves through fields and along roadways. Most of the time everything works exactly as intended. Occasionally, it does not. When that happens, poles and lines tend to lose the argument.

None of this catches us off guard. Throughout the year, our crews inspect

poles, maintain rights-of-way, upgrade aging equipment and prepare for peak conditions. We coordinate with our power supplier, monitor system performance as demand rises, and are ready to respond when storms move through the area. In short, we prepare for summer long before summer arrives.

Members can help, too. Report outages promptly. Keep a safe distance from downed lines and contact us immediately if you see one. Be mindful around poles and guy wires. A little awareness can prevent significant inconvenience — and occasionally prevent what might otherwise be described as **"JUST A FLESH WOUND"** to the system.

Summer in Kansas is rarely quiet. But reliability during the busiest season of the year doesn't happen by accident. It happens because preparation, maintenance and experience come together when they're needed most.

We'll continue doing our part to keep the system strong and ready. And if a storm does pass through, we appreciate your patience as our crews restore service safely and as quickly as possible.

REMAIN CALM. CARRY ON. We're ready for summer.



PHOTO ABOVE, "BACKROAD BEAUTY," IN COFFEY COUNTY, WAS SUBMITTED BY 4 RIVERS MEMBER JULIE ROHRER OF RURAL BURLINGTON.

**SUMMER
INTERNSHIPS
PROVIDE
EXPERIENCE FOR
STUDENTS**



Chance Hegg

4 Rivers welcomes two interns to the crew this summer from area electrical programs.

CHANCE HEGG, a student from Pratt Community College, is working with our north line crew out of our Lebo office this summer.



Ashton Oneal

ASHTON ONEAL, a student of Pratt Community College at Coffeyville, joins the south line crew and is based out of the Fredonia office.

Oneal was a 2025 recipient of 4 Rivers' lineworker scholarship.

Internships provide students with valuable on-the-job experience, and we are pleased to be working with Hegg and Oneal this summer as they further their careers in electrical linework.

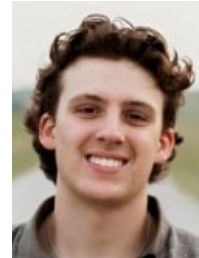
Franklin and Hoyt Awarded 2026 Lineworker Scholarships

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 Lineworker Scholarships: **GAUGE FRANKLIN** and **RYAN HOYT**.

Each recipient will receive up to \$5,000 toward tuition, fees, books, tools, and supplies as they complete an electric lineworker program at an accredited institution. The lineworker scholarship reflects 4 Rivers' ongoing commitment to our communities, while supporting workforce development and encouraging careers that serve the cooperative's mission and members.

Franklin, a recent graduate of Caney Valley High School, plans to attend Pratt Community College's electrical lineman program at the Coffeyville campus. Hoyt, a recent graduate of Burlington High School who plans to attend Elite Lineman Training Institute in Tunnel Hill, Georgia, expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for the opportunity.

"My interest in becoming an electrical lineworker began when I enrolled in a course called Industrial Engineering Technology, where I developed a strong appreciation for working with electricity and hands-on technical problem-solving," Hoyt said. "The more I learned about the electrical line trade, the more confident I became that this was the career path I wanted to pursue. What motivates me most about becoming a



Gauge Franklin



Ryan Hoyt

lineworker is the opportunity to serve my community in a meaningful way by helping provide a service people depend on every day."

A scholarship selection committee composed of 4 Rivers Cooperative members reviewed applications based on educational and career goals, understanding of the lineworker role, and overall potential to contribute to the electric utility field.

"Reliable electric service depends on skilled lineworkers committed to safety, service, and the communities they serve," said April Engstrom, manager of member services at 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative. "By supporting students in this field, we help strengthen the workforce needed to maintain reliable service for our members and communities."

To learn more about 4 Rivers' programs and services, visit www.4riverselectric.com or follow us on Facebook.

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JUNE BUDGET BILLING ADJUSTMENTS

Members enrolled in budget billing will see their biannual adjustment reflected on bills issued in June. Power bills issued in May included each member's updated budget billing amount, which takes effect this month.

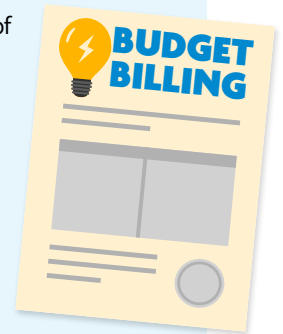
Budget billing, sometimes referred to as levelized billing or an even payment plan, is an alternative to traditional monthly billing offered by 4 Rivers Electric. This option helps provide a more predictable monthly payment by averaging your account's past usage and applicable fees throughout the year.

Accounts are automatically reviewed twice annually, and budget amounts are adjusted based on changes in average usage or fees.

These periodic reviews help reduce the likelihood of large credits or balances accumulating over time.

Eligible accounts may enroll in budget billing through SmartHub. To qualify, accounts must have at least 12 months of billing history, begin with a zero balance, and remain in good payment standing while enrolled in the program.

If you need assistance with your SmartHub account or have questions about budget billing, please contact us. We are happy to help.



SUMMER SAFETY:

Electricity and Water Don't Mix

If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock

Summer is here and, with it, fun trips to the pool or lake with our friends and family. Safety-conscious parents insist their children



wear life jackets around deep water, but we need to be aware of another potentially deadly, invisible swimming danger: electric shock drowning (ESD).

Safe Electricity points out that this lesser-known type of drowning can happen when electricity from a dock, boat, pool, hot tub or marina escapes into the water due to faulty wiring or equipment. As swimmers enter electrified water, their muscles can become paralyzed and cause them to drown, or they can suffer internal injuries or cardiac arrest. Additionally, someone not aware that electricity is flowing through the water could jump into the dangerous waters to try and rescue the person in distress and end up falling victim themselves.

NEVER swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards. Due to conductivity properties of the human body, ESD occurs most often in fresh water.

IF YOU SEE WHAT YOU THINK IS AN ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING:

- ▶ Turn the power source off at the breaker.
- ▶ Throw a life ring but do not enter the water ("reach, throw and row but do not go").
- ▶ Call 911 or go look for help if no access to phone.

IF YOU FEEL AN ELECTRIC SHOCK, PULSING OR OTHER UNUSUAL SENSATIONS WHEN YOU ARE IN THE WATER:

- ▶ Shout out to others to let them know;
- ▶ Try to stay upright;
- ▶ Tuck your legs up close to your body to make yourself smaller; and
- ▶ Swim away from anything that could be energized.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

GO PAPERLESS WITH SMARTHUB

Mail delivery times and postage costs continue to increase, making paper billing less predictable than it once was. Mail delivery delays can affect when bills and payments arrive, and rising printing and postage expenses increase the cooperative's overall operating costs.

Members can help simplify the billing process by receiving an electronic bill each month. Paperless billing provides convenient access to your monthly bill by email and through the SmartHub website or mobile app, allowing you to view your account information anytime, anywhere.

Members can also avoid mail delays by paying online in SmartHub, calling our automated phone system, or using their bank's online bill pay program. In addition to reducing paper clutter at home, electronic billing and payment options help improve reliability and reduce printing and mailing expenses. As a member-owned co-op, controlling operating costs helps us continue providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

Interested in paperless billing? Sign up with SmartHub! Visit www.4riverselectric.com for more information.





CO-OP CLASSROOM

Understanding the Power Behind Your Power

Why Summer Peaks Matter

During the summer months, electricity use across our system rises as temperatures climb and air conditioners work harder to keep homes and businesses comfortable. While higher energy use is expected during hot weather, there are certain times of day when electricity demand reaches its highest levels. This is known as “peak demand.”

For 4 Rivers Electric and cooperatives across the region, summer peak demand typically occurs on hot weekday afternoons between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. from June through September. During these hours, homes, businesses, irrigation systems, and cooling equipment are often operating at the same time, placing greater demand on the electric grid.

WHY DOES PEAK DEMAND MATTER?

Electric cooperatives must ensure enough power is always available to meet members’ needs even during the hottest days of the year. The amount of electricity required during peak periods plays a significant role in the cost of wholesale power purchased by the cooperative.

On particularly hot summer days, our generation and transmission (G&T) provider may identify periods of especially high electric demand across the region. During these times, 4 Rivers may operate local generators to help reduce strain on the electric grid and manage overall power supply costs.

Because wholesale power costs are influenced by these peak demand periods, reducing system demand even for a short time helps control costs for the entire membership.

HOW MEMBERS CAN HELP BEAT THE PEAK

Small changes in energy use during peak hours can make a meaningful difference. Members can help reduce peak demand during the summer months

of June through September on weekdays from 3-6 p.m. (excluding the major summer holidays Independence Day and Labor Day).

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO HELP “SHAVE THE PEAK:”

- ▶ Raise your thermostat by 2-3 degrees during peak hours.
- ▶ Delay running dishwashers, clothes dryers and ovens until later in the evening.
- ▶ Grill outdoors or use smaller countertop appliances instead of the oven.
- ▶ Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans to help circulate cool air.
- ▶ Close blinds or curtains during the hottest part of the day.

WORKING TOGETHER BENEFITS EVERYONE

As a member-owned cooperative, 4 Rivers Electric works to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service while being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Managing electric demand during periods of high summer usage is one way we help control wholesale power costs and maintain reliability across our system.

When members reduce electric use during peak periods, even small adjustments can make a meaningful difference. Lower peak demand helps reduce strain on the electric grid, supports system reliability during extreme summer temperatures, and helps control overall power supply costs that affect the entire membership.

By working together during peak periods, members help support the long-term reliability and affordability of electric service for our communities. We appreciate your partnership in helping manage summer demand safely and responsibly.