



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Road, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

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FROM THE CEO

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

We know our members are feeling stretched right now. When the cost of groceries, gas, insurance and other essentials keeps climbing, every bill that arrives in the mailbox matters — including the electric bill. If you're looking closely at your household budget or wondering how to make each dollar go further, you're not alone. Your co-op understands, and we don't take lightly the trust you place in us to provide reliable power at a fair cost.

That's why I think it's important to look at what electricity makes possible each day and the value it continues to provide in our homes, farms and businesses.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month — roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives,

often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about



Angie Erickson

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HAPPY LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Twin Valley Fuels Growth of Student Leader at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

HANNAH WILEY, representing Twin Valley Electric, recently participated in the 49th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) held July 10-16 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The camp brought together 80 high school student leaders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, sponsored by 46 electric and agriculture cooperatives.

Throughout the weeklong camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock candy cooperative. They elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, created committees, and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives. Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution, and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor and avian presentation from HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station.

CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it fostered a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs and

braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.

Hannah was elected by her peers as one of three camp ambassadors and will return to the 2027 camp as a student counselor.

When asked what most affected them at camp, what inspired them, and what they wish they had known prior to camp, Hannah said: "What affected me the most was how this camp pushed me to take responsibility to become a leader and get out of my comfort zone, trying new things and working hard to do my best. All the speakers inspired me to become both a better leader and member of my community, wherever I am in life. I wish I knew this camp would be not only educational but extremely enjoyable! The community is amazing, and everyone is an amazing influence."

"The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is a meaningful way to invest in the



Hannah Wiley represented Twin Valley Electric Cooperative at the 49th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this July. Hannah was elected as one of three camp ambassadors by her peers and will return to the 2027 camp as a student counselor.

future of our communities," said Angie Erickson, CEO at Twin Valley. "We're proud to support opportunities like this that help young people grow as leaders, build confidence, and bring those skills back home to make a difference."

Twin Valley sponsors two students each year. For more information about this camp and other youth programs, contact Marsha Moses at 620-784-5500.



Hannah Wiley plays the guitar for fellow campers.



While touring Craig Power Station, Hannah Wiley (second from left) stops for a photo.

Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

September is National Preparedness Month

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

WATCH VS. WARNING

When severe weather is approaching, many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions, and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A warning means severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- ▶ Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- ▶ Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- ▶ Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- ▶ Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- ▶ Keep emergency kits stocked and up

to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.

- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- ▶ Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- ▶ Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

KNOW HOW TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- ▶ Slow down and move over in work zones.
- ▶ Do not distract crews while they work.
- ▶ Direct service questions to your utility.
- ▶ Check your utility's social media channels or text alerts for outage updates, if available.
- ▶ Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause backfeed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

STAY ALERT DURING CLEANUP:

- ▶ If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
 - ▶ Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
 - ▶ Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
 - ▶ Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.
- Power outages, downed lines and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather.

REPLACING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AFTER A DISASTER

PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

- ▶ **MAKE A HOME INVENTORY.** Take a video walkthrough of your home and belongings. Record serial numbers and estimated values when possible.
- ▶ **STORE DIGITAL BACKUPS** in the cloud or on an external drive in a safe place.
- ▶ **KEEP KEY PAPERS TOGETHER AND ACCESSIBLE.** Store documents in a waterproof, fire-resistant container.

DOCUMENT LOSSES

- ▶ **CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE** before cleanup to confirm coverage, documentation requirements and adjuster timelines.
- ▶ **TAKE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS** of damage from multiple angles.
- ▶ **SAVE RECEIPTS** for recovery-related expenses.
- ▶ **GATHER PROOF OF PURCHASE**, such as email receipts and online order histories.

START RECOVERING BY REPLACING THESE RECORDS AND CONTACTING THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ **BANK CHECKS, DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS:** Your bank or card issuer.
- ▶ **SOCIAL SECURITY CARD:** Social Security Administration or local Social Security office.
- ▶ **BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES:** State or local vital records office where the record was filed.
- ▶ **MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE RECORDS:** State or local vital records office where the record was filed.
- ▶ **PASSPORT:** U.S. Department of State.
- ▶ **INCOME TAX RECORDS:** IRS.
- ▶ **MILITARY RECORDS:** National Archives and Records Administration.
- ▶ **REAL ESTATE DOCUMENTS:** County recorder, recorder of deeds or clerk's office.
- ▶ **MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS AND PROPERTY TITLES:** Lender or loan servicer.
- ▶ **LEASE DOCUMENTS:** Landlord or property management company.
- ▶ **DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID:** State motor vehicle agency.
- ▶ **HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE POLICIES:** Insurance agent or insurance company.
- ▶ **WILL OR TRUST DOCUMENTS:** Attorney who prepared them.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

A LITTLE COST. A LOT OF LIFE.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly — from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- ▶ 720 hours of refrigeration
- ▶ 20+ loads of clean clothes
- ▶ 15+ home-cooked meals
- ▶ 90+ hours of lighting
- ▶ 30 days of comfort
- ▶ Numerous devices charged
- ▶ Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- ▶ Countless connections to work, school and entertainment



SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

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everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the best values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Twin Valley is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Twin Valley is proud to be more

than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community — not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power — so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September marks the start of fall's shoulder season, often bringing temperatures mild enough to give your HVAC system a break. Open windows and use ceiling fans when weather allows. It's also a great time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance, as fall often offers better appointment availability. Regular tune-ups can improve efficiency, reduce the risk of breakdowns and keep your home comfortable year-round. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Farm Safety and Health Week

SEPT. 21-25

As harvest season approaches, take time to think about electrical safety

- ▶ When operating machinery, watch for overhead power lines.
- ▶ Look up before moving tall equipment and keep it at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- ▶ Never approach a downed power line. Report it immediately.
- ▶ We're proud to power the farms that power our communities.

Stay safe out there!

