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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
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206 N. Main, P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878

Tribune — 620-376-4231
310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879

FROM THE MANAGER

A Season of Giving, A Year of Impact

There is something remarkable about what happens when people come together for a common cause. At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), we see firsthand how generosity, partnerships and a shared commitment to our communities can make a lasting difference.

This year, sponsors and golfers rallied behind a cause that reflects one of our Seven Cooperative Principles, **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY,** raising more than **$50,000 FOR POWER THE PANTRY** during our eighth annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament. I encourage you to turn to **PAGE 12D** to read more about how the generosity of our vendors and partners continues to make a meaningful difference across southwest and central Kansas.

At WEC, our mission of ***DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE*** extends far beyond keeping the lights on. It means recognizing opportunities to strengthen our communities, supporting our neighbors and working together to make life better for those around us. And what an incredible year 2026 has been!

Earlier this year, WEC received the highest recognition in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2026 Spotlight on Excellence Awards program — the prestigious **EDGAR F. CHESNUTT AWARD** — for our 2025 **POWER THE PANTRY** campaign.



Bruce W. Mueller

While we are incredibly proud of this national recognition, the greatest reward is knowing the difference this campaign makes for families facing food insecurity.

Stay tuned for the January issue of *Kansas Country Living*, when we'll announce the total dollars donated to a dozen local food pantries through this year's campaign.

As another year comes to a close, I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to serve communities where generosity, compassion and looking out for one another remain a way of life. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives. From our WEC family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Hanging Christmas lights may seem simple, but it combines two serious hazards: ladders and electricity. During the busy Christmas season, it can be tempting to rush or take a shortcut. Use the right ladder, set it up correctly, maintain three points of contact, and stay clear of electrical hazards. If you can't safely reach something, climb down and move the ladder. Christmas lights aren't worth taking a shortcut for. The goal isn't just to get the lights up. It's to be there with your family when they get turned on. Take your time. Be safe. Enjoy the season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From our Wheatland Electric Cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a blessed and delightful holiday season.



District 1 — *Scott City*



District 2 — *Leoti*



District 3 — *Tribune*



District 4 — *Syracuse*

All WEC offices will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. CT and will remain closed on Friday, Jan. 1.



District 5 — *Garden City*



District 6 — *Great Bend*



District 7 — *Harper*



Water Division — *Garden City*



Executive Team



Board of Trustees

CO-OPS CARE!

Annual golf fundraiser raises over $50,000 for POWER THE PANTRY



Golfers and sponsors once again rallied behind a great cause this fall, helping Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., (WEC) raise **OVER $50,000** for **POWER THE PANTRY** through our eighth annual **CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT,** held Sept. 25 at The Golf Club at Southwind.





While this year's event looked a little different and did not feature a full tournament field, the support behind it was **BIGGER AND BETTER** than ever. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, employees and community partners, the fundraiser **DOUBLED LAST YEAR'S $25,000 TOTAL** — making it our most successful tournament to date!

Leading the way were a record eight **GIGAWATT SPONSORS,** each contributing $3,000 to support the tournament and **POWER THE PANTRY**. They were joined by three **MEGAWATT SPONSORS** for $2,000 each and 14 **KILOWATT SPONSORS** at $1,000 each. Altogether, these generous partners contributed a record-breaking **$44,000 IN SPONSORSHIPS ALONE** — the highest sponsorship total in our tournament's history! Additional funds were raised through a 50/50 raffle, silent auction items, and on-course golf games.

Support from our vendors and partners — along with contributions from additional sponsors and participants — helped turn a day on the golf course into an even greater investment in communities across southwest and central Kansas.

Every dollar raised through our Co-ops Care tournament goes directly toward WEC's annual **POWER THE PANTRY** campaign, which supports a dozen local food pantries throughout our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

"A successful tournament means even more support for the local pantries working every day to make sure our neighbors have food on the table," said **ALLI CONINE**, director of member services and corporate communications. "We're incredibly grateful to everyone who rallied behind **POWER THE PANTRY** and helped give these organizations more resources to serve our communities when they need it most."

For the fourth consecutive year, WEC has pledged **$50,000** directly to those food pantries and challenged our members, employees,

businesses and community partners to help us **DOUBLE OUR IMPACT** and reach an overall campaign goal of $100,000 or more.

With **$50,000** raised through **CO-OPS CARE** alone, this year's fundraiser provided a tremendous boost toward our annual goal and demonstrated just how much can happen when our cooperative partners come together for their communities!

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU GOES TO OUR GIGAWATT SPONSORS

- K2 Farms
- Logicalis
- Okonite Cables
- Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. & Southern Pioneer Electric, Co.
- Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
- Sunbelt-Solomon Solutions
- Techline
- Wesco

We appreciate their extraordinary support, as well as every sponsor, golfer, employee and volunteer who contributed to this year's success.





POWER THE PANTRY has always been about more than raising dollars. It's about neighbors helping neighbors and making sure local pantries have the resources they need to serve families throughout our communities.

Thanks to everyone who supported this year's **CO-OPS CARE** tournament and stay tuned as we share more details on our website and social media — and in these pages next month — about our campaign total!





KEEPING MEMBERS
Connected, Informed and Engaged

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) recently brought together cooperative members, community leaders and local stakeholders for its annual **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** at the Hamilton County Public Library in **SYRACUSE**.

The Nov. 9 event offered an opportunity to share updates, exchange ideas and discuss issues affecting the cooperative and the communities it serves, reinforcing WEC's mission of ***DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE***.

Among the evening's key topics was the growing interest in **LARGE ELECTRICAL LOADS** and what these potential developments could mean for WEC's service territory, infrastructure and existing members.

JIM MCVAY, assistant general manager and general counsel, discussed the cooperative's role in working with prospective large-load members and the importance of careful planning as electricity demand continues to evolve.

As new opportunities emerge, WEC remains committed to keeping members informed about the challenges and considerations associated with serving large electrical loads. These conversations are especially important as the cooperative works to balance potential economic development opportunities with our responsibility to provide safe, reliable, and competitively priced electricity to the members we serve.

CEO/General Manager **BRUCE W. MUELLER** thanked the roughly **50** attendees for their participation and continued interest in the cooperative's future.



Cooperative members gathered in Syracuse for an evening of updates and meaningful discussion about large-load opportunities shaping WEC's future.

"When we come together to share ideas and listen to one another, we build a stronger, more connected cooperative for everyone we serve," Mueller said. "Your voices help shape where we go next, and that's what makes this cooperative truly member-driven."

Throughout the evening, WEC leadership engaged directly with attendees, answering questions, gathering feedback and encouraging open dialogue about cooperative priorities.

These conversations reflect WEC's commitment to transparency and the cooperative principle of **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL.** By creating opportunities for meaningful, two-way communication, WEC helps ensure members understand the issues facing your cooperative and have a voice in its future.

Member engagement meetings are held annually on an invitation-only basis, rotating between WEC's east and west districts. These gatherings provide an important opportunity for members to connect with cooperative leaders, share perspectives, and help shape the future of WEC's programs and services.



LEFT: Jim McVay, WEC assistant general manager and general counsel, discussed the growing interest in large electrical loads and their potential impacts.

BELOW: Guests enjoyed a charcuterie spread coordinated by Main Street Market Hub in Syracuse.




COORDINATED BY
KEC
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.
SPONSORED BY
YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC CO-OP
CYLC
COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP
MAKE YOUR OWN PATH
JULY 9-15, 2027
COMMUNITY
Form a candy co-op, lead camp activities, and connect with students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.
LEADERSHIP
Discover how co-ops work, strengthen leadership skills and your resume, and hear from nationally recognized speakers.
MEMORIES
Raft the Colorado River, tour a power plant, and compete in fun team activities.
You'll create memories that will last a lifetime.
LEARN MORE


MAKE YOUR MARK!
YOUTH TOUR
NRECA
June 17-23, 2027
A week of building memories, skills, leadership and friendships that will last a lifetime!
Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!
Wheatland Electric will sponsor TWO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS on an inspiring trip to our nation's capital to build LEADERSHIP skills and LIFELONG connections!
Apply online by Jan. 11!
www.weci.net/youth-tour


MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT!
Help us shine a light on a local HOLIDAY HERO:
Nominate an everyday hero who goes above and beyond for others! We'll share their stories, and select one honoree to have $250 donated to a local charity in their name.
Visit www.weci.net/holiday-hero by 12/6 to submit your nomination!


SENIORS!
APPLY NOW FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
WHEATLAND ELECTRIC
Who is eligible to apply?
Graduating high school seniors planning to attend a college or trade school for 2027-2028.
Must attend one of 13 high schools in Wheatland Electric's service territory:
Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott Community, South Haven, Syracuse, & Wichita County.
Apply online by Jan. 11!
Scan the QR code or visit www.weci.net/scholarships
ONE AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP is also available for a senior who doesn't attend these schools but whose parent/legal guardian receives our electric service!


WHEATLAND ELECTRIC
Delivering Energy for Life
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
You're invited to our
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Powered by Holiday Cheer!
When: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. local time
Jingle, Mingle & Cheer!
Thursday, Dec. 17
Enter to win a giveaway at every location!
LEOTI – 101 W. F STREET
TRIBUNE – 310 BROADWAY
SYRACUSE – 206 N. MAIN
GARDEN CITY – 2005 W. FULTON
GREAT BEND – 200 10TH STREET
HARPER – 906 CENTRAL
SCOTT CITY – 101 S. MAIN STREET (WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM)
Join us for holiday treats, festive fun & a chance to win!