



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Electrical Accident Impacts Couple's Lives: 'Normal Before Will Not Be Normal After'

Bailey Edenburn was packing for an unknown destination. She also had to pack for her fiancé, Cody Conrady. Many times, throwing necessities in a suitcase is for something fun. Unfortunately, packing on this day in May was for anything but.

She didn't know how long she would be gone or even where she was going. All she knew was she had to pack. And she had to get to Cody.

After finding out where he was and driving faster than she cares to admit, she reached her destination: the Level 1 trauma center. She did not know how bad it was. She only knew Cody was alive.

At that point in time, Cody only knew the same — he was alive. After nearly dying in an electrical accident, the day was a blur; most of it unetched in his mind.

Earlier that day, Cody had started his next-to-last day as assistant manager for an agricultural fertilizer company. They were shorthanded that day, so it was all hands on deck. To get ahead of the sprayer, he hopped in his truck and got going.

"I had to take loads because we needed an extra truck to take fertilizer," Cody recalled. A sprayer had been broken down for 3½ hours, and when it finally showed up, he was ready.



Cody and Bailey Conrady share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety. Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant.

What Happened Next

After the sprayer pulled in, Cody pulled up in his truck to unload fertilizer. "I hooked on like I normally would, and the sprayer was unfolding, which is pretty much standard procedure."

What transpired next changed everything. Those who were there think that when the sprayer boom was unfolded, the sprayer tips extended at the same time and one of them grazed the power line.

Cody said they believe the sprayer tip was electrified for only a moment, but that the stray electricity moved through the tip, boom, tractor, and

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REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14.

2020 Property Taxes

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Pratt, paid a total of \$667,550.16 in ad valorem property taxes in 2020.

Through payment of property taxes, rural electric cooperatives share the cost of the state's educational system, highways and city and county facilities such as roads, libraries, parks, and hospitals.

Paying our share of taxes is one of the many ways Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative and nearly 1,000 other rural electric cooperatives — now serving more than 26 million people throughout the United States — help build a stronger, more prosperous America. In addition to the ad valorem property taxes, we pay approximately the same amount in other taxes.

Ninnescah Rural Electric provides electricity to 4,312 services.

County	Tax Paid
Barber	\$ 50,513.52
Comanche	\$ 949.28
Edwards	\$ 79,418.22
Harper	\$ 23,246.52
Kingman	\$ 36,257.34
Kiowa	\$ 88,844.42
Pawnee	\$ 1,716.04
Pratt	\$ 295,997.60
Reno	\$ 14,468.68
Stafford	\$ 76,138.54
Totals	\$ 667,550.16



Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative is Awarding 4 — \$1,000 Scholarships

Ninnescah's board of trustees has decided to award four \$1,000 scholarships in 2021 to high school sophomores or juniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah.

Applications are due in Ninnescah's office by Friday, March 5, 2021. All applicants will receive a student packet to study for a written examination and interviews at Ninnescah's office in April. Winners will be announced at our annual meeting on the evening of June 8, 2021.

Typically, Ninnescah sponsors two trips every year for high school sophomores or juniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah. One trip is the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the other trip is to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trips have been canceled for 2021. Our board of trustees decided to instead award scholarships this year. Please contact Nancy Aschenbrenner at 800-828-5538 for more information.

Application for Scholarships – Due Friday, March 5, 2021

To apply, please complete the application below and return to Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, at 275 N.E. 20th St., or mail to: P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Phone Number(s) _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. **APPLICANT SIGNATURE** _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2021 scholarship competition sponsored by

Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. **SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN** _____

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative met on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at the cooperative office on N.E. 20th Street in Pratt, Kansas.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: Jay Derley, Jack Deviney, Marvin Jantz, Ken W. Lewton, Jon M. McClure, Steve Moore and Wilbur K. Wood. This being all the members of the nominating committee, with the exceptions of Terah Lambert and Morgan Trinkle who were unable to attend.

Lewton was selected as the chairman of the nominating committee, McClure was selected as secretary and Deviney was selected as inspector of elections.

Danny Lynch of Johnston, Eisenhauer, Eisenhauer & Lynch, general counsel

for the cooperative, reviewed with the nominating committee the qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative. Based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative, the nominating committee determined if each potential nominee was eligible for election.

The following individuals were nominated to serve three-year terms on the Ninnescah board of trustees: **MICHAEL CHRISTIE**, Stafford; **RONALD SCHULTZ**, Haviland and **BRUCE WARREN**, Attica. An election to select three trustees from these nominees will be held by mail in ballot and the results will be announced at the Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Riner Celebrates 40th Anniversary



MATT RINER celebrated his 40th anniversary at Ninnescah with a surprise party. He began working for Ninnescah on Feb. 2, 1981, in our line department.

During the surprise party, Matt shared how he got started working for Ninnescah as well as some stories about his work on the line over the years. He is currently a journeyman lineman for Ninnescah. Thank you Matt for your dedicated years of service to Ninnescah!

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

As you prepare for planting season don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting.



TRAIN OTHERS: Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, on electrical hazards.



USE A SPOTTER: When working near power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



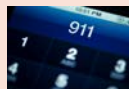
SAFETY FIRST: Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB: If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.



WAIT TO UNFOLD: Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.



CALL 911: Call 911 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.

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down to the ground where Cody was standing. When Cody touched the camlock, which connects the hoses together, 7,400 volts of electricity flowed through his body.

The force of the stray voltage threw him backward and onto the ground. The person in the cab jumped out and started CPR (luckily the ground was no longer electrified) and called 911.

One Journey, Two Experiences

As in any journey, two people experience it differently. Cody is matter of fact. He says he doesn't mind talking about it, but that Bailey does. As an outward expression of his love for her, you can tell he worries about her reliving that day.

He says he doesn't remember a lot about the accident, but he does have a few vivid memories that have to do with the stretcher — one was the sound of the collective click as it was being loaded into the ambulance. The other was him being rolled onto it to the medevac.

"My first memory after that was probably a week and a half later," Cody said, adding that there were many conversations with Bailey to help him piece the details together, including the progression of his care. He said the medical staff made several attempts to save his hand, but that the damage had progressed too far. He also questioned why they had to take his leg.

"What we learned is that tissue is actively still dying over the course of two weeks, so it (the internal damage) just kept moving up (the affected limbs)," he said.

Bailey's Recollections

When Bailey recalls what happened, her words come a bit faster than Cody's.

"Emotionally, I've probably been more of a mess (than Cody). He struggled very early on with just the circumstances (of it all) and just how badly hurt he was. But he's accepted the fact that this is his

life now, and (that)he has to make this life as good as he can. I'm not quite there yet," she admitted.

As with most significant journeys in life, "there are days that are perfect, (when) the world is right." And there are the bad days, she added.

After watching Cody experience immense pain, lose two limbs, undergo numerous surgeries and learn to walk again, "we knew life wasn't going to be the same," Bailey reflected. "We knew that the 'normal' before was not going to be the 'normal' after.

In the beginning, Bailey said it was just all about survival. Today, their lives include more gray areas.

"I don't know what the future holds," Bailey said. "There are some days when his leg just bothers him ... (but) he's not the type to want to sit still for anything. He's had to sit still and learn more patience in the last year than he has his entire life. And it just drives him bonkers."

The Dangling Carrot

At one of the initial meetings with the medical team, Cody mentioned Sept. 7 — the day the couple were to be wed. "It was a giant dangling carrot, really," Bailey said. "I mean, he was bound and determined we were not going to put the wedding off."

On the Wednesday before their wedding, Bailey came home to a huge

surprise. "I had gone to do chores, and when I came back, he was walking around the house, without a cane, and I bawled, absolutely bawled."

Bailey said that Cody had gotten his leg prosthetic 10 days before the wedding. "I didn't think he'd walk down the aisle. I'm not sure in that moment in time he thought he'd walk down the aisle."

But he did, and you can hear in Bailey's voice just how special their wedding day was. "It was just the most perfect of days," she said, smiling.

The Journey Continues

Bailey said that the goal was and still is for "Cody to do whatever Cody wants to do."

Cody and Bailey are still packing for a destination. Sometimes figuratively. They adapt to the twists and turns of their life together. Cody navigates the challenges he faces with a different dominant hand than before the accident. Some days he can't do everything he wants to because of his pain. Bailey still struggles at times with what happened that day in May.

But sometimes they pack in a literal way. Lately, they have been busy completing baby registries for a new addition in their lives. Although a bit apprehensive like most first-time parents, bring on the next chapter, they said.

The journey continues.

Welcome New Members

Isaak B Bergen – Greensburg

Hannah Spitzer – Pratt

Ricky B &/or Brenda Dirks – Medicine Lodge

Brigdon S Russell – Haviland

Nick Schwein – Iuka

Brian &/or Krystal Atteberry – Pratt

Shawna M Stegman – Greensburg

Linda Hoeme – Preston

Carolina Ibarra – Belpre

Peter C &/or Loretta A Clouse – Kingman

Weston Goyen – Pratt

David &/or Aimee J Hoppes – Medicine Lodge

Robert Hixson – Dallas, TX

Chain Ranch Inc. – Canton, OK

Reed Strate – Lewis