



FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Outlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

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7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

FREESTATE FORUM

Do you have feedback for FreeState? We encourage our members to reach out. Visit www.freestate.coop/forum.

A Super Fun Way to Help Others

In a world where energy is a superpower, our members are heroes in a league of extraordinary individuals, harnessing the power of unity and community. Cooperatives like FreeState do more than provide power — they ignite a spark of progress, driven by principles not profit. In the cooperative universe, it's not just about the energy you use, it's about the energy you bring to the world.

One of those guiding principles, Concern for Community, is important to not only FreeState members — but to cooperative trustees and staff, too.

We have encouraged members to save pop tabs for the past two summers with our **SIPPIN' ALL SUMMER CHALLENGE** and our members came through! The challenge gives members an easy way to be involved and contribute to a great cause.

This summer **WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN, BUT WE'VE SUPER-SIZED IT. WE ARE ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO SIP ALL SUMMER AND COLLECT TABS FROM MAY 1 TO SEPT. 29.**

To go along with our superhero theme, we're asking you to be a SipperHero for others and collect those tabs! It's something everyone in the family can do.



Sippin' All Summer Challenge

We also encourage you to recycle a milk jug, cereal box or chip can, decorate it with a “super” fun theme then pop and drop those tabs in all summer long. Challenge your kids or grandkids to collect and see how many you can get before Sept. 29.

WHY SEPT. 29?

FreeState's member appreciation event, formally known as Crew at the Zoo, will be moving to a **NEW** location with a new name. Save the date for Family FunDay on Sunday, Sept. 29, at **GARY'S FARM FEST** in Grantville! Crew at the Zoo was an incredible event, but we're changing to provide something new for our members. We are excited to chat with you at Family FunDay, and for some — meet you for the first time. More information will be coming this summer.

Start “Sippin' All Summer” and see how many pop tops you can collect for a good cause!

For more information visit WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/SIP.

SAVE THE DATE TO JOIN US FOR OUR FAMILY FUNDAY SUNDAY, SEPT. 29, AT GARY'S FARM FEST!



2024 Youth Programs



AVA GUSTIN
MISSION VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTS: JEROD & CARYN GUSTIN

MEET AVA

2024 Leadership Camp Delegate

My name is Ava Gustin, and I attend Mission Valley High School in Eskridge. At school, I enjoy interacting with younger students and participating in community service. I live in a rural part of Carbondale.

While at home, I love to garden, read, bake and hang out with my family. I have two older sisters. One currently lives in Kansas City after recently graduating from Kansas State University. The other lives in Manhattan and is a current K-State student. My family is full of K-Staters as my mom really enjoys cheering on the Wildcats.

During the summer, 4-H is one of my favorite activities and I love feeding pigs with my dad, sewing outfits for the fashion revue, and mentoring younger members.

EXCERPT FROM AVA'S ESSAY ABOUT HER MENTOR

When people think of a leader, they might think of someone who has made great social change. But for me, it is more personal. My hero is my grandmother, Nancy Faimon. She taught me to love and respect other beings and showed kindness to everyone.

As a child, I remember walking down Grandma's long driveway to see baby bunnies in the barn. She was my idol and instilled in me a love for the outdoors and animals. When my parents went on a date, I would go to grandma's house. She kept oatmeal creme pies in her closet for her grandkids and we would stay up playing Monopoly. Grandma was always hardworking and never complained.

Grandma showed me that leadership is not about being front and center. She made holidays about her family and put others above herself. She made me feel special and was my

number one cheerleader. She gave my sisters and I a bear that sang "Shining Star" by the Mannhattans.

Grandma was authentic and did not care about appearances. Her priority was her family. She treated everyone the same, regardless of their background or wealth. She had a "glass half full" outlook and was a calming presence.

One day, grandma forgot to pick us up from school. We later learned she had Alzheimer's. But she remained strong and did not take her issues out on others. Now, she is in the progression of her disease to forget me, but I will never forget the impact she had on my life. She was always there for me, and now it is time for me to repay her kindness by serving others as she served me.

“Grandma showed me that leadership is not about being front and center.”

FreeState invests in our youth through opportunities designed to provide experiences that guide students to develop leadership and communication skills. These two high school juniors went through a competitive application process where they prepared an application, an essay and interview where they earned the opportunity to represent FreeState at two great leadership experiences this summer.



MEET BENNETT

2024 Youth Tour Delegate

My name is Bennett Minnick. I am a junior at Perry Lecompton High School. I have a passion for history that started from an early age. I love to watch historical documentaries and play historically-inspired video games. I want my future to include teaching and coaching wrestling. I started to play football my sophomore year, and I play on both sides of the ball and on special teams. I wear the No. 3 to honor my late cousin, and I'm proud to keep his memory alive. I am on the wrestling team and a captain and participating in the Scholar's Bowl. I started participating in the Scholar's Bowl in middle school, and although it conflicts with sports, I find ways to participate in competitions. I also play in the band and am first chair in the percussion section.



BENNETT MINNICK

PERRY LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS: BRAD & HEATHER MINNICK

EXCERPT FROM BENNETT'S ESSAY ABOUT HIS MENTOR

Coaches are the backbone of programs and the only ones who can see the growth of a player day to day. Yet, they are often underappreciated and blamed when players fail. I have been blessed with wonderful coaches in my athletic career, from Mr. Base, my early Taekwondo instructor, to Coach Robb, my current wrestling coach. They have taught me about leadership and recognizing change.

In my first year of high school, I joined the wrestling team and found a coach who could be both silly and serious, Coach Robb. He was just the assistant coach at the time, but soon became the head coach and implemented "the quote of the week" and the team mantra, "hold the rope." He

believes that if one person quits or skips practice, it weakens the team.

During a week when I was injured, I helped coach the team. Coach Robb said, "one more go left," but I knew there were three more.

He later explained, "Sometimes as a coach you have to know when to stop." I realized that coaches must see when an athlete is past their limit.

Coach Robb was my first true high school coach, and I'm lucky to have learned from him. He is one of three teachers and coaches at Perry that truly have my deepest respect.

They [coaches] have taught me about leadership and recognizing change. I realized that coaches must see when an athlete is past their limit.

Wager Retires After 23 Years of Service

Myer promoted to right-of-way superintendent

FreeState announces the retirement of **RANDY WAGER**, who has been a valued cooperative employee for 23 years. Wager was hired in 2000 by Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative and has served as FreeState's right-of-way superintendent since 2017.

Wager's dedication, professionalism and knowledge will be deeply missed.

With his retirement, FreeState has promoted **TYLER MEYER** to the role of right-of-way superintendent. With six years of experience working with Wager, Meyer has honed his skills and acquired comprehensive knowledge of the responsibilities and expectations of the position.

Meyer will take his new role on May 1, 2024, and is committed to continuing a legacy of excellence and service established by his predecessor.

FreeState wishes Wager well as he begins his retirement. He plans to spend time with his family and enjoy his hobbies. Wager has been a great asset to the cooperative and a friend to many. He will be missed by his colleagues and members alike.

Please join us in congratulating Wager on his retirement and Meyer on his promotion.



Randy Wager



Tyler Meyer

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FreeState Electric Cooperative Presents

FAMILY FUNDAY

Save the date! Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024.
Stay tuned. More information to come this summer.

at Gary's Farm Fest!

Collect pop tabs and join the Sippin' All Summer Challenge!

Visit www.freestate.coop/sip or scan the code for more information.

BE A SUMMER SIPPERHERO!



Sippin' All
Summer
Challenge