Norris Electric News

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Norris Electric Cooperative

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Norris Electric sponsors Imagination Library books in memory of Sarah Semple

The Jasper County Imagination Library received a $1,000 donation in memory of Sarah Semple from Norris Electric Cooperative. This memorial will be reflected on book labels with "Remembering Sarah Semple & Her Love for Books — Norris Electric," in June, July and August 2025. NEC's board of directors plans to make this an annual donation to remember Sarah. Sarah's parents, Charles and Lynn Semple, joined Norris Electric staff recently to present the donation to "Dolly."

Sarah Semple joined Norris Electric in 2012, bringing her skills and knowledge to the engineering department. At the time of her passing in December 2024, she was working in the role of mapping technician. NEC General Manager Tamara Phillips shared, "Sarah had a deep love for reading and was always excited to share her collection of books with fellow book lovers in the office. She loved recommending a good read or discussing her latest literary finds with anyone who was interested. Sarah was also a devoted aunt to her niece, Norah, and nephew, Miles."

The Jasper County Imagination Library launched earlier this year through the generous support of local businesses and community members. As of March, 142 children were already enrolled to receive their first book in April. Children who reside in Jasper County receive in the mail a carefully selected, age-appropriate book each month from birth to age five at no cost to parents or caregivers. Parents and caregivers can enroll their children online at imaginationlibrary.com or pick up a form at the Newton Public Library.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR

Retirement

Edgar Hannaman — Journeyman Lineman, 25 years

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Ed Hannaman on his retirement. Ed retired from Norris Electric Cooperative with over 25 years of dedicated service.

His journey with Norris began in 1987, when he was hired as summer help. He then went on to serve in the United States Army until his retirement from military service in the fall of 1999. In January 2000, Ed rejoined Norris Electric as a member of our brush crew. Over the years, he worked in both line clearance and on line crews, ultimately retiring as a journeyman lineman in our construction department in April of 2025.

We wish Ed all the best in this well-deserved next chapter. Enjoy your retirement, Ed — and thank you for everything!

Anthony Zuber — Journeyman Lineman, 43 years

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Tony Zuber on his retirement. Tony began his career with Norris Electric Cooperative in the fall of 1978 as a student janitor from Newton High School. Through hard work and a strong work ethic, he progressed through the ranks — serving as a line clearance apprentice, line clearance journeyman, lineman apprentice, construction journeyman and line foreman.

Tony retired in April as a journeyman lineman in our maintenance department, marking nearly 44 years of dedicated service to Norris Electric. His presence and experience will be greatly missed by all of us.

We wish Tony all the best in this well-deserved next chapter. Enjoy your retirement, Tony — and thank you for everything!

Tamela Knicley — Member Service Representative, 9 years

Tammy Knicley joined Norris Electric Cooperative in the fall of 2015 and has been a valued member service representative in our member services/billing department ever since. We appreciate her time with the co-op, and we wish Tammy and her husband Butch all the best!

Imagination Library continued from 18A

About Jasper County Imagination Library

The Jasper County Imagination Library has partnered with The Dollywood Foundation, the State of Illinois and Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation to create a local affiliate for Jasper County. With this unique partnership, the administrative costs are covered by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the State of Illinois covers 50% of the program costs, leaving our local Jasper County Imagination Library affiliation responsible for the remaining cost of the program. Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation provides fiscal sponsorship including donation processing and accounting services.

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton launched the Imagination Library in 1995 to foster an early love of reading and learning in her hometown of Sevier County, Tenn. The Imagination Library has since become the highest quality, most recognizable and most effective book gifting resource in the world. Policy makers, funders, early childhood organizations and families trust The Imagination Library to inspire a love of reading among children of all ages.

Lobby Day

In April, 80 employees and directors from 29 electric cooperatives across Illinois gathered at the State Capitol to meet with senators and representatives. Their mission: to voice concerns over proposed legislation that could strip co-ops of local control, increase electric rates, and impose rigid, one-size-fits-all solar net-metering requirements. Representing Norris Electric at the event were board directors Ava Lemmon and Dave Sheppard, along with Engineering Manager Tim Huber.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

STAY COOL THIS SUMMER

without breaking the bank

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take action.

7 cost effective tips to help lower energy consumption:

1. Request a home energy audit from your local utility to reduce energy loss.
2. Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
3. Increase your thermostat by two degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
4. Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
5. Run dryers, washers and dishwashers during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.
6. Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. Detergent, not hot water, cleans the clothes.
7. Reduce indoor heat by limiting cooking and the use of heat-producing appliances during the hottest parts of the day.

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