

You may be thinking, 'Why is someone running for the East Pender seat on the Four County Electric Cooperative board of directors in the Sampson Independent and clintonnc.com? Fair question with an easy answer. This seat is an at-large position, so all members of Four County can vote. I'd like to introduce myself.



CHRIS RIMEL

EAST PENDER COUNTY CANDIDATE FOUR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

We're a 5 a.m. family. I wake at 4:55 a.m., get ready then wake up our oldest, who at 15 understands from dad's military career if you're not early, you're late. She's always happy when she comes downstairs to ask dad if she can drive to Topsail High. No, I say, but when you turn 16, you'll get an electric car and drive yourself, or let it drive you there. (That's a dad joke.)

In our lifetime I think autonomous vehicles will become commonplace. I've seen a car parallel park in the grocery store without the driver doing a thing. I've seen a Tesla with awesome torque zoom past me on 40 on my way to Fort Bragg for Army Reserve weekend. That commercial that shows the Hummer crabwalking into a parking spot is pretty neat.

You know what all this has in common? Electricity. As we use more and more technology, from asking Siri or Alexa about the weather to setting our phone alarm to wake, we are living the Jevon's Paradox.

The paradox basically says the more energy efficient a society becomes the more energy that society uses. That pretty much defines how we live today.

Pender County is estimated to have 70,000 people. Sampson is around 60,000. Duplin is nearing 50,000. Bladen is almost 30,000. What happens when Four County Electric becomes the newest member of the 100,000 club? More electricity demand. For certain.

My name is Chris Rimel and I respectfully ask for your vote for East Pender director for Four County Electric Cooperative. Thank you.