



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2017

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 26, Number 12

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



From all of us at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District: “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!” We are proud to serve our customers and to be able to provide safe, reliable, cost effective electricity all year long.  
*Thank you for being our customer!*

## A CHANCE TO SERVE

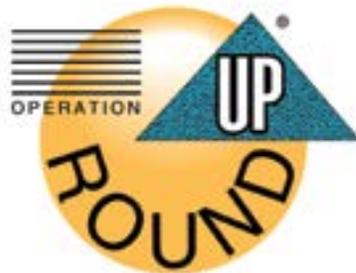
Operation Round Up will begin in January. At that time, your bill will be rounded to the nearest dollar. Please see the October *Wire* for a full explanation of how it will work.

That money will then be distributed back to the communities in Elkhorn Rural Public Power District’s (ERPPD) chartered territory. Local organizations will be able to fill out an application to apply for funding for equipment, projects, etc.

These funds will be distributed by a board of trustees for a non-profit organization set up by

ERPPD called the ERPPD Community Development Fund.

The board of trustees will be made up of 5 members. There will be one representative from each of



the three sub-districts, like the ERPPD board of directors, who are customers that live in the sub-district, and two at-large members from anywhere in the district. The two at large members do not need to be customers of ERPPD.

The time commitment for this volunteer board of trustees will be nominal. The board of trustees will meet, according to the by-laws, at least once a quarter. The main objective of the meetings will be to review applications and award fund- **continued on back page**

# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

In September and October, we hosted state legislative aides (pictured below) to learn about public power and the electrical utility industry. In September, we talked about public power. They climbed poles, took bucket truck rides, heard about the challenges for the rural areas and experienced how electricity is vitally important to our state's number one industry - agriculture.

*Pictures: Upper right: A wind turbine technician repairs the end of a blade that was struck by lightning. Lower right: close up of the technician on the end of the blade. Upper middle: front row - Legislative Aides: Edward Boone (Dist. 40), Charles Isom (Dist. 17); 2nd row- Spencer Head (Dist. 19), Patrick Roy (Dist. 37); back Luke Hinkle. Lower middle - the inside of a wind turbine. Lower left: looking up at the rotors from the base of the turbine.*

In October, they were able to learn about one of our renewable resources -wind. Wind energy is and will continue to be a part of the generation mix in Nebraska and in the United States.

Earlier this year it was reported by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), that wind energy produced 8% of the US generation capacity in 2016, bypassing hydro as the number one renewable energy source (eia.gov). Nebraska has particularly good wind generating potential.

According to the American Energy Association, Nebraska is ranked 4th in wind energy resources in the nation. In 2016, 3.98 billion kilowatt-hours were generated by utility-scale wind energy in Nebraska (neo.ne.gov). ERPPD's territory is home to some of this wind generation. **continued on page 3**



*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
December 2017*

continued from page 2

Luke Hinkle, Operations & Maintenance Manager at Prairie Breeze and Nicole Goodman, Senior Manager, State Government Affairs, Western Region, with Invenergy, hosted Elkhorn and four state legislative aides from districts 17, 19, 37 and 40, (pictured on page 2) for an informational tour of their wind generation facilities.

Prairie Breeze, a sub-division of Invenergy, LLC, an international corporation whose headquarters are in Chicago, has a 179 unit "park" with a capacity for generating just under 340 MW of electricity.

The wind turbines – (they are not wind mills) are comprised of the tower, nacelle, and rotors. The hub sits 80 meters or (262 ft.) in the air. The rotors are 164 ft. or 50 meters long. It costs \$3-4 million on average to build a utility grade wind generator (windustry.org).

Prairie Breeze has 16 local employees. Many of the staff are technicians that maintain and repair the turbines.

Power produced by each turbine is collected through underground cables and sent to a substation to be distributed. The power from the Prairie Breeze park is sold to state entities.



*Above: Some of the first wind generators erected for the Prairie Breeze projects.*

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# SAFETY

Please be safe around electricity this Holiday season and for each season in 2018.

## Top 10 Home Electrical Safety Tips

<p>use a qualified electrician for repair work</p>	<p>repair loose outlets; replace cracked, worn electric cords</p>	<p>watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds.</p>
<p>get regular check-ups for older homes</p>	<p>use bulbs with correct wattage for the fixtures</p>	<p>if children are present install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock</p>
<p>use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring</p>	<p>unplug electrics if you smell something burning</p>	<p>keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas</p>
<p>educate the household on electrical safety</p>		

Learn more about home electrical safety at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# PUPPIES CHRISTMAS

It's the day before Christmas  
And all through the house  
The puppies are squeaking  
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily  
Hung on the door  
Is scattered in pieces  
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung  
In a neat little row  
Now boast a hole in  
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected  
To bright-eyed whims,  
And now, although splendid,  
It's missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold them.  
"Be good", I insist.  
They lick me, then run off  
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them  
The thought comes to me,  
That their's is the spirit  
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies  
Yet show us the way,  
And teach us the joy  
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message  
That's written above,  
And tell us that, most of all  
Christmas is love.

~ Anonymous



**A Chance to Serve**  
continued from first page  
ing to those needs or projects that  
meet the criteria.

We are looking for dedicated,  
involved community members to  
serve as volunteers on the inaugu-  
ral board of trustees.

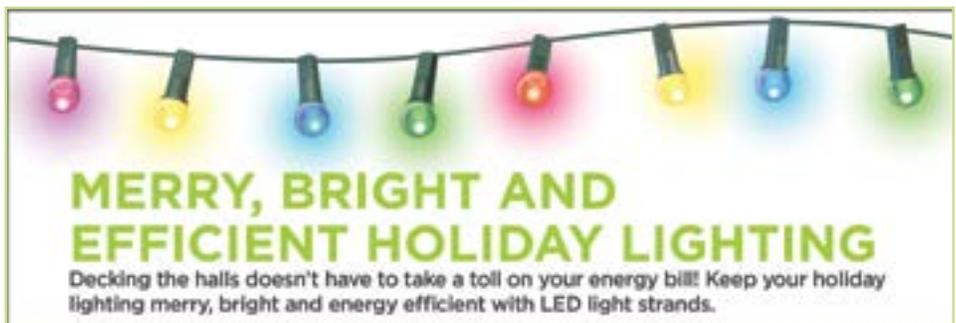
Please contact Jennifer at 402-  
675-2185, for more informa-  
tion about the positions and this  
chance to serve your community.

Operation Round up is an opt-  
out program. If at anytime you  
do not wish to participate in  
the Round Up program, or you  
don't want certain accounts in  
the program, you can contact the  
office at 800-675-2185, e-mail us  
at [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com), or fill out  
the form that will be in with your  
December, January and Febru-  
ary billing and send it back with  
your payment. We will refund  
any money that was applied to the  
Community Development Fund.



## Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

Offices will be closed  
to observe Christmas,  
**Monday, December 25,**  
and New Year's Day:  
**Monday, January 1, 2018**



\*Consider replacing older light strands with new Energy Star LED lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age old standard bulbs.

\*You can get the look of cozy lighting iwth LEDs. Jus look for "warm white" on the label

\*Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off vitually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).

\*Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

(Source: Department of Energy)