



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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TRIBUTE TO GREG WEIDNER

A great man is one who leaves others at a loss after he is gone. --Paul Valery

Greg Weidner, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District board president, passed away on May 4, 2018.

Greg had served on the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board since 2007. He was board president since January 2017. He was also on the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) board serving as Secretary/Treasurer from 2016 - 2017 and then as Vice-President.

Greg believed in education and being educated. He was a member of the LEAD 24 program. He also completed continuing education for PPD/Cooperative board members through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association: Credentialed Cooperative Director, 2008; NRECA Board Leadership Certificate, 2011 and Director Gold Certificate, 2016 and 2018.

All these programs required com-

mitment and determination to complete as well as a significant amount of personal time, which exemplified the type of person Greg strived to be.

Greg pursued everything he did with passion and dedication. He was a farmer and received the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce Farm Family of the Year in 2013. He was also an accountant, having received his Bachelors of Business Administration and Accounting from Kearney State College and was a member of Nebraska Society of Public Accountants.

Greg will be remembered for his smile, loyalty, dedication, willingness to serve, honesty and integrity.

The NREA is facilitating a scholarship in Greg's memory, allowing his passion and dedication to the electrical industry to live on.

Our sincere condolences go out to the Weidner family.

He will truly be missed by the Elkhorn RPPD family.



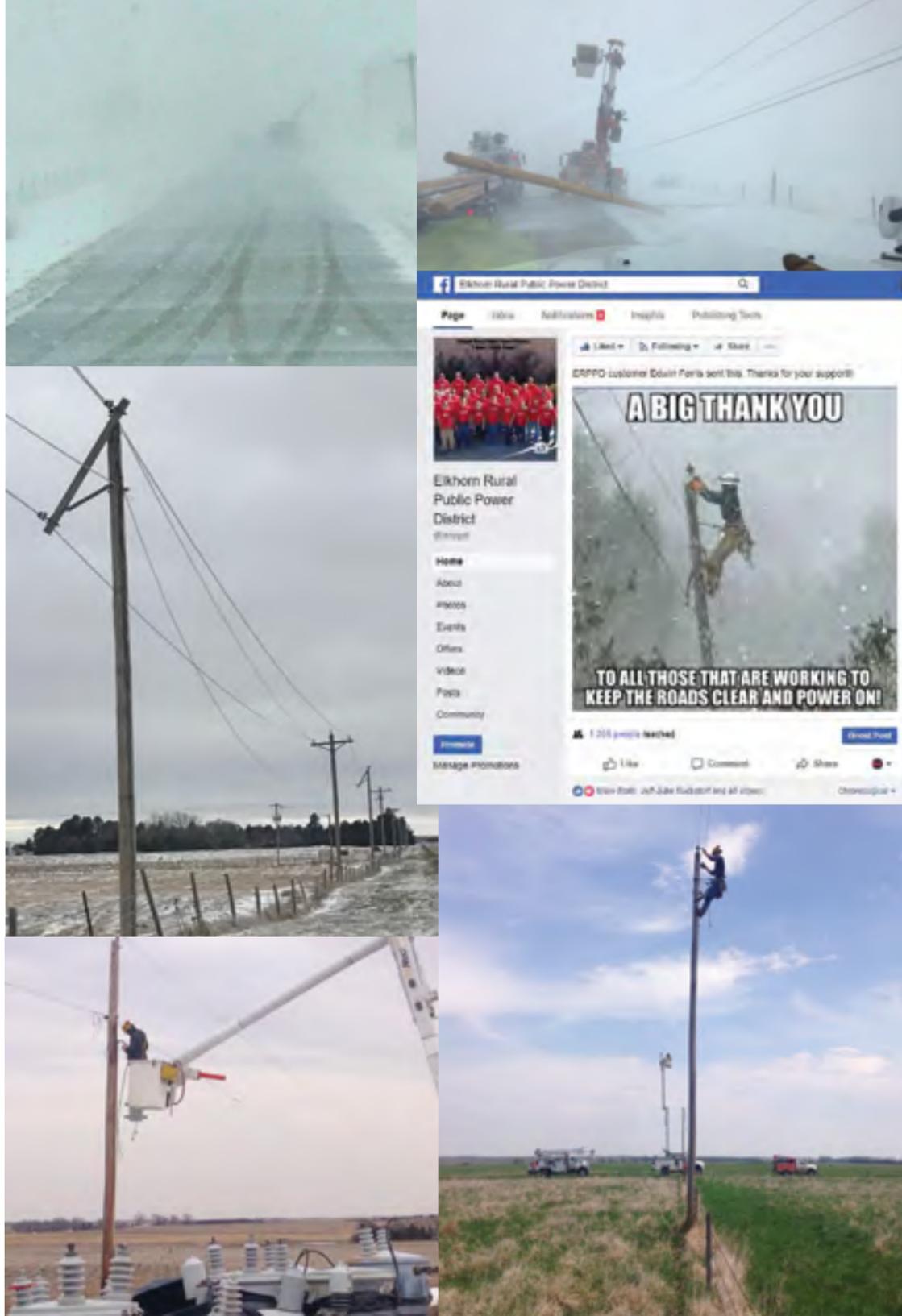
Greg Weidner

December 20, 1963 - May 4, 2018

Below - Tom Rudloff, General Manager, presents Greg with a Director Gold Certificate; lower left - ERPPD trucks stand at attention at the Humphrey cemetery.



BLIZZARD APRIL 2018



We want to say a big thank you to our customers for your patience, support and prayers during the blizzard in April. At the height of the storm we had about 4,000 customers without power. All customers were restored on Monday, April 16. The four pictures clockwise from the bottom left were taken by crews out in the field during the storm as they worked to restore power. The picture middle right is from the ERPPD Face Book page with well wishes from our customers. The picture on the bottom right is a crew working to repair damage to the lines caused by the storm. We will be fixing line for some time, but it will not affect the service we provide. Again, thank you for being our customers.

EQUIPMENT

The board of directors were invited to check out some of the equipment that was purchased recently. Equipment is retired based on depreciation, which is about 14 years for large trucks. Replacements are budgeted on the depreciation cycle.

Todd Knutson, operations manager, stated, "It is a balance of equipment reliability and cost-effectiveness for our customers. We want to make sure our equipment runs efficiently to help keep our costs lower."

The District budgeted to replace a bucket truck and a digger derrick this year.

The used bucket truck that was purchased, pictured to the right (top 3 pictures), has a 77 foot lift as opposed to the old machine which had a 60 foot lift.

The boom "squirts" out horizontally, which is also different from the truck it replaced. This allows for a longer reach to areas that are hard to access.

The taller lift means our crews will be able to reach taller trees for trimming and vegetation management. The taller lift also means that it can be used for transmission line, which is taller than distribution line. It was used after the ice storm to repair transmission line.

The digger derrick (lower picture) will be stationed in Neligh replacing the digger truck there.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: energys.gov



Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.

Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.

Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.

Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

NEW FACES



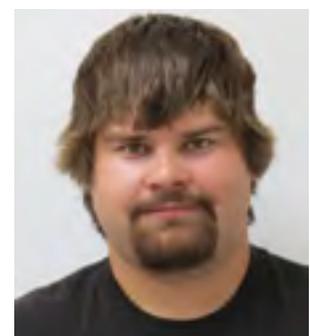
Taylor Stanley, recent graduate, hired as summer help and will be working in Neligh

Taylor Stanley and Blake Papik, recent graduates of the NECC Utility Line Program, were hired as seasonal workers. They will be working this summer to help us catch up from the storm as well as learning valuable skills for their futures as linemen.

Taylor will be working out of the Neligh outpost and Blake will be working from Battle Creek headquarters.

Both Taylor and Blake come from farm backgrounds and are hard workers.

We look forward to having them at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.



Blake Papik recent graduate, hired as summer help and will be working in Battle Creek