

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 3

Students Selected to Represent ERPPD on the 2014 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Ashley Walz, Battle Creek



Dylan Widger, Elgin

Ashley Walz of Battle Creek and Dylan Widger of Elgin have been selected to represent Elkhorn Rural Public Power District on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour to the nation's Capitol in Washington, DC., in June.

The students were chosen based on an essay submitted to the ERPPD selection committee. To be eligible, students must first attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Camp, held at the Halsey National Forest 4-H Camp. After representing ERPPD at the Youth Energy Camp, the students may apply for the Youth Tour and submit their essay.

Ashley and Dylan will join 15-20 other Nebraska representatives on the one-week tour of the Washington, DC area. They will spend time with our senators and congressmen, and learn about the political process. They will also learn about rural electrification and legislation that might affect rural America.

Congratulations Ashley and Dylan, we know you will represent the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District and the state of Nebraska very well.

NOTE: If you would like to be eligible to go to Washington, D.C. on the NRECA Youth Tour, you must first attend the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp, which is held each year in July at the Nebraska 4-H Camp in Halsey National Forest. An application for the 2014 Nebraska youth Energy Camp can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

ERPPD Employees Provide Assistance During Battle Creek Fire

We are very proud of our employees and directors for their volunteerism during the Battle Creek Fire on January 26. The fire started approximately 1.5 miles northwest of town and was fueled by 40-60 mph northwest winds. The fire was headed straight towards Battle Creek. Through the heroic efforts of the Battle Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and the assistance of volunteer firefighters from 11 other communities, the fire was contained before it could enter the town. The firefighters used the Battle Creek to their advantage, but it did jump the creek in a few spots and those spots were quickly extinguished.

Volunteer firefighters Chris Tillotson, Dominic Smedra, Patrick Hintz, Brian Suckstorf, and Garland Goracke are also ERPPD employees and worked the fire line. Dave Hrabanek, ERPPD employee, used a chain saw to fell trees to keep the fire away from homes in the fire's path. Director Dennis Kuchar assisted with a tractor and disk. Other employees worked to evacuate our large equipment out of harm's way to protect it and to have it readily accessible in case the fire entered the city limits. We also had linemen standing by in case the firefighters needed power lines disconnected.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped in any way to keep our community safe.

SAFETY NEWS

Northeast Nebraska Farm Show at NECC

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Stanton County Public Power District, participated in the 2013 Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show held at Ag Complex on the Northeast Community College campus. Employees from both power districts talked with customers and other visitors about electrical safety and other topics, including energy efficiency, rates, etc.

ERPPD customers visiting the booth registered for a drawing for several electrical related items. Pictured below are the grand prize winners from the show. Mike Fink of rural Battle Creek won the drawing for the LED Shop Light. Phyllis Dusel of rural Tilden won the drawing for the George Foreman electric grill. Mike Kruger of rural Pierce and Red Henery of rural Battle Creek each won an LED light bulb.



Mike Fink of rural Battle Creek, winner of the LED shop light.



Phyllis Dusel of rural Tilden, winner of the George Foreman electric grill.



A team of linemen from Elkhorn RPPD and Stanton Co PPD perform a safety demonstration using a high voltage demonstration trailer.

OPERATIONS NEWS

Top Stories for March

- The Clearwater electrical system conversion is in progress.
- Pasture pump meters are currently being replaced with automatic meters. This project will complete the Automatic Meter Reading system conversion which began in 2009.
- ERPPD personnel will be working to move our lines from the path of the new Nebraska Public Power District 345,000-volt Hoskins to Neligh transmission line. This transmission line is critical for ERPPD summer-peaking customers, including irrigation, to avoid the area transmission line constraints experienced during the summer of 2012. Because of those constraints, new electric irrigation requests have been put on a waiting list until the new transmission line is completed, which makes the new Hoskins to Neligh transmission line very important for the continued growth of the district. The Hoskins to Neligh transmission line is projected to be in service by the 2016 summer season.

YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

ERPPD is seeking campers for 2014 camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp has involved up to 100 high school students (in the ninth, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is also stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C. Three winners will be selected to go as ambassadors from Nebraska next summer. They also are able to return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14, and ends around noon on Friday, July 18. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 21, 2014* to:

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715



2014 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 21, 2014)

Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2014 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 14-18 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

New Incentive for LED Lighting-\$5 per Bulb (limit 10 per year)

The EnergyWise program is offering a significant incentive to residential customers for replacing incandescent light bulbs with LED light bulbs. Elkhorn Rural Public Power District customers can receive \$5.00 per bulb for each incandescent bulb that is replaced with an LED bulb, for up to 10 bulb replacements per year.

The new LED bulbs provide the same light output for a fraction of the electricity use. For example, a 60-watt equivalent LED bulb uses only 12.5 watts, a 75-watt equivalent LED bulb uses only 17-watts, or a 100-watt

equivalent bulb uses only 19-watts. It is probably more important to compare the light output, or lumens, when shopping for LED bulbs. You may be able to replace a 75-watt incandescent bulb with a 60-watt equivalent LED bulb and receive the same lumens.

Other advantages of LED lighting:

- They last up to thirty-five times longer than incandescent lights.
- They light up instantly and many are dimmable
- They are more energy efficient since most of the energy is produced as light instead of heat.



- LED bulbs do not contain mercury

For program guidelines and an Incentive Application, please stop in and see Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative, at our Battle Creek office, or call our office at (800) 675-2185.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

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President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
DirectorII
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefler
DirectorIII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting

1-800-675-2185

After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

It's the law! Call 811 Before You Dig!

Or 1-800-331-5666
Diggers Hotline
of Nebraska

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural
Public Power
District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**