



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2020

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 29, Number 3

## YELC TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Each year ERPPD sponsors high school students to attend Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) in Halsey, NE.

From there students have the opportunity to attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C. through the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA).

With these experiences, one camper has fulfilled a dream and made a career for herself.

In 2011, ERPPD sponsored Ivy Prater of Elgin to attend YELC. At YELC she was selected by her peers to be an ambassador for the annual NREA Youth Tour.

The following summer, she went to Washington D. C. on the Youth Tour and was then selected as



one of 44 on the Youth Leadership Council for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). (You can read about that in the July 2012 *Wire* at [erppd.com](http://erppd.com))

Youth Tour gave Ivy her first taste of life outside of Nebraska.

Ivy remembers, "We met with Hill staffers who told us how you don't have to be a political science major [to work in Congress or D.C. in general]. You could major in public relations...or anything you are passionate about. That's when I realized that could be me if I worked hard and set my mind to it. I decided I really

wanted to come back out here and give it a shot."

She was hired for two summer internships with the NRECA while she attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Ivy is now employed as a coalition and grassroots associate in the public affairs department at the NRECA, in Washington D.C.

Recently, Ivy was the recipient of the Judy Schneider Fellowship (pictured below)- a year long program sponsored by Women in Government Relations.

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## KELLY NICKELS JOINS ERPPD

Kelly Nickels started as Warehouse/Locator Assistant at the beginning of February.

He will be working out of the Neligh outpost.

Kelly is a native of Bloomfield. After high school he did a tour in the Marine Corps. After his service, he attended the electrician program at Northeast Community College.

His career continued when he started

as a rigger at Vulcraft. Then he took a maintenance/electrician job at Cold Finish and then at the steel mill.

He is a journeyman electrician.

He lives with his wife Lindy and daughter Alynn just outside of Pierce.

He likes to ride motorcycles and ATVs in the Black Hills. He also likes to hunt.



## SAFETY NEWS

Spring is coming and home improvements will abound. Please use the following safety tips when utilizing an extension ladder.

### Do:

- \*Ensure the ladder is placed on a firm, level surface. Then, erect the ladder so that the upper section rests on the bottom section. This will make the bottom section face the supporting structure.
- \*Set the ladder up at a 4:1 angle. (See graphic to the right)
- \*Erect the ladder so that it extends at least 3 feet beyond the landing platform.
- \*Anchor the ladder or have someone hold the bottom for stability

### Don't:

- \*Set up or take down a ladder when it is extended.
- \*Use near power lines.
- \*Overextend the ladder
- \*Stand on the top rung
- \*Overreach/use the ladder that is not appropriate for the job
- \*Use on icy, snowy or slippery surfaces.

Ladders are great tools to get the job done. Follow the "steps" to extension ladder safety and enjoy a project well done!



## WINNERS



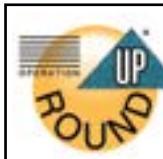
**ERPPD was at the Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment show in January.**

We want to thank everyone that stopped by to visit or see the High Voltage Safety Demonstration.

We had drawings for a DeWalt cordless drill and an LED shop light.

Winners pictured left to right: Max Bowman, Elgin, and Otto Beltz, rural Pierce County.

## YOUR "CHANGE" PUT TO WORK



How does the Operation Round Up and ERPPD Community Development Fund help organizations?

Pictured left is Garland Goracke, Fire Chief for the Meadow Grove Volunteer Fire and Rescue with Judy Hilkemann, Fund board trustee.

Garland applied for funds to replace a 13-year-old laptop that the organization is using. It can no longer keep up with the needs of the volunteers for training, record keeping and communication. With a new laptop operations will be a whole lot more reliable and efficient!



Clockwise from upper left: Kory Lingenfelter, trustee, with Amber Anderson, director, at the Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska, Jeff Heimes, principal, at Battle Creek Public Schools, Lacy Kimes, housing supervisor, Bright Horizons, and the morning exercise group at the Elgin Community Center. Abby Evans, manager, and Anne Parks, trustee, middle of the first row.

### Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (February 2020)

| Organization                                      | Project   | Location     | Amount Awarded |
|---|---|--------------|----------------|
| Animal Shelter of Northeast NE                    | "Paws for a Better Life" taking care of pets for displaced people   | Norfolk      | \$1,000.00     |
| Battle Creek Schools                              | Blaze Days Mental Health Awareness  | Battle Creek | \$500.00       |
| Bright Horizons                                   | Project Homeless Connect - one day; one stop event for the homeless and near homeless to get services and/or supplies | Norfolk      | \$1,000.00     |
| Clearwater Chamber/Rodeo                          | Help with funding for entertainment   | Clearwater   | \$1,000.00     |
| Elgin Community Center                            | AED   | Elgin        | \$1,000.00     |
| Elgin Teammates Chapter                           | Chapter dues/background checks  | Elgin        | \$500.00       |
| Meadow Grove Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department | Laptop computer   | Meadow Grove | \$750.00       |
| Neligh-Oakdale Teammates Chapter                  | Mentor/Mentee Travel T-Shirts   | Norfolk      | \$500.00       |
| Norfolk Public Schools Teammates                  | Background checks for mentors   | Norfolk      | \$500.00       |
| Oakdale Volunteer Fire Dept.                      | New Fire Hall   | Oakdale      | \$1,500.00     |
| Village of Ewing/Ewing Legion Sanders Post 214    | Cemetery Flag Poles   | Ewing        | \$1,000.00     |
|   |   | TOTAL        | \$9,250.00     |

Second Quarter

Application Deadline  
April 20, 2020

Board Meeting Date:  
May 4, 2020



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



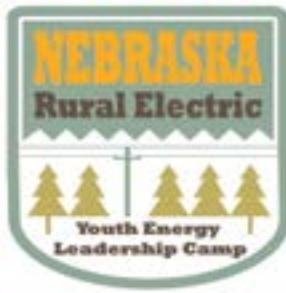
# YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

*Continued from front page.*

Ivy was one of three recipients for the prestigious honor.

Ivy is very appreciative and grateful to ERPPD for the opportunities she was given through YELC and Youth Tour.

Who knows what awaits you; apply today!



**Fun, Friends, Learning and Leadership**  
**Join us at YELC 2020 - July 20-24, Halsey NE**      **More info at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)**

## 2020 ERPPD ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Return to : Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715  
(Entry Deadline April 15, 2020)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2020 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 20-24 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

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