



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

November 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 11

## THANKFUL FOR THOSE THAT SERVE

November is a month for Thanksgiving - the holiday and reflecting on the things we are thankful for.

At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District we are thankful for those who serve.

Thank you to those who have sacrificed - sometimes everything - to preserve our nation and freedoms.

We would like to note one soldier in particular that has gone above and beyond to train himself for a leadership role in the Army.

Alex Kerkman, son of Jeff and Becky Kerkman, graduated from U.S. Army Ranger School. Jeff is the foreman at the Neligh outpost.

He was "tabbed" with the black and gold insignia on August 30, at Ft. Benning's Victory Pond.

Rangers are an elite group

of soldiers, tested through extreme physical, mental and psychological stresses that simulate combat.

There are three phases of the training: Darby, Mountain and Swamp. Alex liked the mountain phase best out of the three because of the view.

Alex was one of 68 out of 386 that took the school that did not "recycle", or need to redo, a section of the training.

In an interview with the *Antelope County News*, Alex attributes his success to God

and fellow rangers, "I prayed my entire way through Ranger school, so I know the person that got me through that was definitely God, and the guys. I can't take any credit for my Ranger tab."

What was the best part about graduation for Alex?



### ERPPD Offices

will be closed

**Monday, November 11,**

to observe Veterans' Day and

**Thursday, November 28** through

**Friday November 29** to observe

Thanksgiving.

"Definitely my dad putting that tab on my shoulder, said Alex.

Alex will be taking Airborne School at Ft. Benning before returning to Ft. Campbell as a team leader.

We congratulate Alex on his achievement and thank him for his continued service to his country.

## GRASSROOTS - OPPORTUNITY

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr.*

Perhaps running for office is something you are going to do for others.

To help those interested in running for office at any level of service or party affiliation the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) is providing training, see the flyer to the right.

We are excited to be hosting a session at our headquarters for Northeast Nebraska and would strongly encourage anyone who is thinking of running for office to take the training.

You can contact Jennifer at ERPPD for a registration flyer or call the NREA office directly and ask to speak with James for questions or to sign up for the training.

### CANDIDATE TRAINING SCHOOL

Thinking about running for office?

Check out the NREA Candidate Training session

**When:** November 15

**Where:** ERPPD Battle Creek Headquarters

#### Topic Areas:

- \*Effective Fund Raising
- \*Message Development
- \*Campaign Budgeting
- \*Campaign Law
- \*Media Relations

Contact James at (402) 475-4988 for more information or to register.



## SOME CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

We are so grateful to be able to serve our great customers and sometimes to be able to celebrate with them. Recently, several staff and a director were at the Furstenau's farm for lunch as their farm hand, Cameron Paulk, won Fixin's in the Field, from WJAG/KIX 106.

We had lunch and were able to thank them for feeding the world and being great customers!



*Pictured bottom left: Cameron Paulk, farm worker and Ryan Kittelson, journeyman lineman/safety director.*

*Pictured left: clockwise Cory Furstenau's family; Cameron Paulk, and Ryan Kittelson.*

*Lower left: Cameron makes tractors out of used parts; Lower Right, Jerry Dolesh, director, far right, visits with Galen Furstenau, left, and Rudy Spulack*



*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
November 2019*

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY - LIGHTING

Winter brings short days and long nights, and the holidays are a festival of lights. This gives a lot of opportunity to use electricity, perhaps more than you were thinking you might. This winter consider the energy efficiency of switching to LED lighting.

For example: Many still use Mercury-vapor lights for yard lights to give light during the night. However, there are a few drawbacks and some advantages of switching to LED lighting.

**ENERGYWISE™**  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

1. Cost - Mercury-vapor lights are expensive to operate.

The standard 175-watt mercury-vapor lamp requires a fixture with a ballast to operate. Most people do not realize the ballast uses energy too. So in reality, it takes 205 watts to illuminate one bulb. Operating an average of 12 hours per night, over the course of one year, will use 898 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity. Using Nebraska's average residential rate of 12.4¢/kWh, that costs \$111.35 every year. Judged against light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures, a 50- to 75-watt LED will provide comparable lighting levels for only one-quarter to one-third the energy use.

2. Longevity of Useful Light - Looking at a mercury-vapor lamp's estimated lifetime, one might think 24,000 hours is a long time, but it's little more than



five years when averaging 12 hours per night. After six years, some may think, Hey! This bulb is lasting longer than they said it would! That is because mercury-vapor almost never dies! But, sometimes a DEAD light bulb is better than one that just gets dimmer and dimmer while devouring the same amount of electricity! After only the first year, mercury-vapor lights have lost nearly 20 percent light output. By comparison, LEDs lose less than 2 percent over the same period.

3. Security Concerns - Having a bright light burning in the dark of night can be comforting to some. However, if you are interested in saving some energy and

money a motion-sensing light could be the way to go. Also, security experts agree that a motion-sensing LED floodlight in the 100- to 200-watt range provides security when needed and is easier on the wallet.

4. Light Pollution- Mercury-vapor, like high-pressure sodium and metal-halide bulbs, emit light in nearly all directions. Though fixtures help direct the light to where it is desired, the majority is wasted as it overwhelms the sky, creates driving glare for passers-by or keeps a nearby neighbor up all night as it shines through their window. Since LEDs create directional light, it is easier to focus the light where it is needed most.

Many of the same arguments can be made for indoor lighting as well. LEDs consume less electricity - about an eighth of a normal incandescent light, and it lasts longer than conventional lighting. For more advantages to LED lighting please see the July 2019 *Wire* at erppd.com.

Also, during the festive holiday season, investing in LED decorations as replacements for traditional ones could be a great cost savings over the long run. LED lights are also safer, as they do not produce as much heat as traditional bulbs.



At ERPPD we want to help you make the most of the energy we provide to you. For assistance on options for lighting or making your home more energy efficient, contact Brian Suckstorf at 800-675-2185.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install - you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov





**Light up  
the holiday  
season safely.**

**Holiday lighting safety tips:**

**Before hanging holiday lights outside, look out for overhead power lines.** Never throw light strands into trees near power lines.

**Inspect all the lights you plan on using.** Make sure the wires are in good condition—not cracked, brittle, or frayed. The sockets should not be damaged, and no light bulbs should be missing.

**Check that all light strands are certified** and rated for the conditions in which they'll be used.

**Never string more than three strands of lights together** unless the packaging says it is safe to do so. Overloaded cords or outlets could start a fire.

**Never tack or nail through a strand of lights.** Do not place cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.

**Lighted and electrical outdoor decorations should be plugged** into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected outlets.

**Turn holiday lights off before going to sleep** or leaving the house. A timer can help you do this.

**Get more safety tips at**

 Safe  
Electricity.org

