



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

October 2022

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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ERPPD CELEBRATED MILESTONE

October is the month to celebrate public power. This year has been extra special as ERPPD reached the 10,000 meter milestone.

In July, we celebrated that milestone with an open house.

We had a very special guest, Ken Hansen, the son of the first lineman hired by ERPPD in 1940, LeRoy Hansen. LeRoy eventually became general manager, and was instrumental in relocating the REA, as it was known then, from a building on main street to where it is today.

Ken shared his memories and gratitude for how the REA shaped his life, as it was his father's occupation. He recounted the blizzard of 1948, when they couldn't get any of the trucks out of the garage and a team of horses was sent to get chains for one of the trucks that was then pulled around the district to fix outages.

He recounted how his father also flew in a plane to get to some of the more remote areas. The plane would fly around until they could see an issue, and then it landed as close as possible and they got out, fixed it and then took off again.

Ken thanked everyone at the celebration for being a part of the REA legacy. "You think you are serving the customers, which you are, but the truth is this place provided for many families through the years, and I



Pictured left: Tanner Goracke and Todd Knutson watch Barrett (11) and Blake (8) Sovereign, sons of Chris and Angie Sovereign, learn how to generate enough electricity to keep the lights on. Below: Peggy and Ray Payne visit the OK Ice Cream Truck.

want to thank all of you for being part of that." (You can watch the 10,000 meter ceremony and Ken's remarks on the ERPPD Facebook page.)

We want to acknowledge those that helped make the celebration a success: Farmers Pride for allowing us to use their lot for parking during the event; St. Patrick's church for tables and chairs; and NPPD for providing signage, an electric generation game and the electric vehicle, the



Ford Mustang Mach E. Chris Sovereign, ERPPD mechanic, provided a delicious meal of hamburgers, wings, and baked beans.

And we want to thank you for continuing to be a part of ERPPD and our mission to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity. Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you!

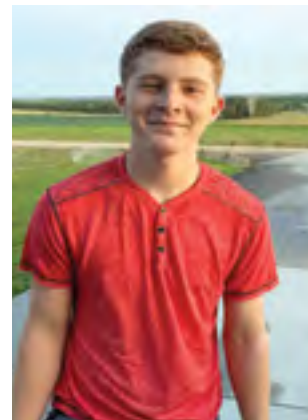


Pictured left: Ken Hansen with a picture of his father LeRoy Hansen, first lineman hired by ERPPD and general manager from 1952-1973

PARTNERSHIPS HELP WITH WORKFORCE

We are excited to be partnering with Battle Creek High School and the “work-based learning program” sometimes known as career academy.

Seniors are offered the option to work at a business for the semester for real life experience of what it is like to do their chosen career and to see if they want to continue on that path with further education or training.



Ethan Hintz, son of Patrick & Crystal Hintz, will be working with us on Fridays for nine weeks

part of this program. ERPPD has partnered for many years with the NECC Utility Line School and

hires interns each year from that program.

These partnerships are important for us in the quest to attract and retain employees.

This will continue to be a key tool in keeping the pipeline for utility line workers going.

The Department of Energy reports that there will need to be “an influx of more than 100,000 new utility workers by 2030. The DOE estimates that only 25,000 employees will be available to fill these roles, laying the groundwork for a long-term talent shortage.”



Pictured left: Apprentice lineman, Dakota Adams stands in full climbing gear.

That is a pretty grim estimation for the utility industry. So we will be continuing to look for ways to educate on the careers we offer and partner with schools to increase interest in our industry.



Pictured above: Coltin Bauer, seasonal worker, runs the digger remote .



Pictured above: Apprentice lineman, Tyler Lamoree gets ready to climb.

PARTICIPATE IN THE

**Uniquely Nebraskan,
Unusually Proud
GIVEAWAY!**

Celebrate Public Power Month and Win!
Tell us what you like about Nebraska and public power and be entered into a drawing to win Husker tickets, as well as uniquely Nebraskan prizes and a t-shirt!
Enter to win at <https://publicpowered.com> and learn more about the public power advantages!
The drawing will be held October 27.

DO YOUR PART #BECYBERSMART

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year’s theme is “See Yourself in Cyber” – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we’re powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication. Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you’re really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it’s becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager. . Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software. It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide

automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you’re not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

4. Recognize and report phishing attacks. Don’t take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn’t match the company it’s coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

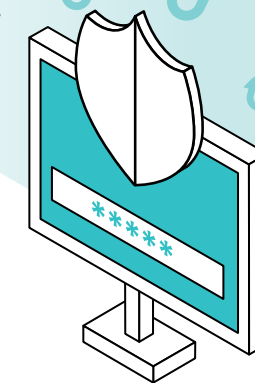
Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we’re creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.

See Yourself in Cyber.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Improve your cyber hygiene by doing these four things:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication
2. Use strong passwords and a password manager
3. Update software regularly
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

FALL SAFETY

It's fall and that means a lot of activity for rural areas. Tractors, grain carts and semis loaded with grain on the roads. Large equipment entering and leaving fields, augers being used to fill grain bins with the harvest bounty. There are also that fun family tradition of picking apples, carving pumpkins and trick or treating at Halloween.

Hopefully what it doesn't mean is an electrical contact with farm equipment, downed lines or household tools, such as a ladder.

Here are some tips for fall safety this year:

- 1) Be aware of your surroundings. Look Up and Out for power lines. Make sure you stay at least 10 feet away with any equipment and use a spotter when raising augers, the bed of a grain truck or a ladder.
- 2) Make a plan for your day and communicate with anyone you are working with any hazards or where power lines may be close at hand.
- 3) Know what to do when there is an accident with power lines or downed power lines. See the infographic to the right.

ERPPD provides stickers and window decals as great reminders to look up and out for power lines. Call the office at 800-675-2185 and we will deliver them to you.

Be safe around power lines this fall and continue to do all the activities and make those great memories.



LOOK UP AND LIVE
WATCH OUT FOR
ELECTRIC LINES

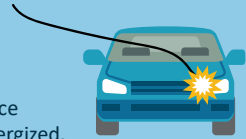
Don't Become Electricity's PATH TO GROUND



When electric utility equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized.

If you are in a situation where there could be downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire or padmount transformer (green box), know what to do to save your life and the lives of others:

CAR ACCIDENT



Stay inside your vehicle or cab since the ground or objects could be energized.

Call 9-1-1 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines or a dislodged green box.

Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.

Do not exit until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

ONLY EXIT IF THE VEHICLE IS ON FIRE

Cross your arms over your chest and make a clean jump out.

Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.

Do not return to the vehicle.



IF YOU ARE A BYSTANDER

Do not approach the scene to try and help.

Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.



Learn more at:

