



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

September 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 9

## LOAD CONTROL STRATEGY SAVES \$



*Tom Rudloff,  
General Manager*

Wow, what an interesting year! I might say one that has made strategies for load management very interesting. The

exciting news is that this strategy has saved Elkhorn RPPD customers \$297,308.64 on the July power bill!

You are probably aware Elkhorn has a “load management” program where we work with our irrigators to shift load from peak usage time to off peak hours. We do this by shutting off individual irrigation wells based off agreements with individual irrigators prior to irrigation season. I like to compare this to a large battery - the water will stay in the ground during peak electrical times, allowing the crops to draw up and use the water and then at night when demand and electrical prices are better, we replenish the water supply for the crops.

This lowers our demand peak and helps reduce cost for the participating irrigators and lowers Elkhorn’s overall power cost from our power supplier.

Going back to this being a very interesting year, we have experienced much less usage in energy sales to our irrigation rate classes as a whole, because many irrigators have benefited from timely rains, and have not needed to run their irrigation systems.

So if the demand component cost of our power bill stays the same with less energy sales the ultimate impact is an increase in power cost, which would need to be reflected in rates.

However, the weather this year created an opportunity for us to lower our demand through irrigation load management, offsetting the lack of energy sales. In a nutshell, the reason for load control this year, even with wetter conditions than normal, was to keep your electricity cost effective now and in the future.

We saved considerable dollars on our July 2018 power bill by lowering our demands, compared to peaks we had experienced in July of 2017 when peak demand and energy sales were much higher.

Our wholesale rates are set by our power supplier doing a 12 month look back and averaging the 4 highest peaks set by our system in the summer months, which are the highest electrical usage months for Elkhorn. By setting a lower peak in July of this year our power costs will be lower in the future.

This equates to close to a 14% savings on Elkhorn’s power bill, which in turn will be used to offset less energy sales in 2018, and ultimately keep rates stable.

At the time of the writing of this article, we are managing our August irrigation load to also reflect savings with the same strategy.

Thank you for working with us as we work to fulfill our mission of providing you with safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.



**ERPPD offices will  
be closed  
Monday, September 3,  
in observance of  
Labor Day.**

**Sub-District 1 Board of  
Director Opening.**

Submit application by  
*Monday, October 15.*

See page 3 for more information.

## GRASSROOTS WORK - BE SURE TO VOTE THIS NOV.

“Between 2008 and 2012, rural voter turnout dropped by 18%. In 2016, America’s Electric Cooperatives and Public Power Districts came together to promote the Co-ops Vote/Rural Votes Count campaign in an effort to reverse that trend by getting rural voters out to the polls. It worked, as turnout increased throughout rural America.”  
- Vote.coop (The National Rural Electric Cooperative Associations (NRECA) grassroots initiative.)

In 2016 rural votes increased by more than 500,000 people nationwide. In Nebraska alone, the percentage of voters increased by 2 - 2.9 %. And the number of rural voters was actually higher than the number of urban voters.

Let’s keep the momentum going for the mid-term elections in November.

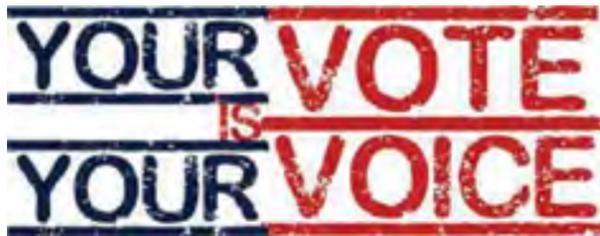
If you are not registered to vote, register today. You can go to the county courthouse to register, pick up a form at your city office or get on-line and register at <http://ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote>. When you register to vote on-line you will need to have your driver’s license or state identification card available.

You may need to re-register to vote if you have had a change in address, name change, or had a change in your political party affiliation.

If you are unsure if you are a registered voter, you can check on-line at <https://www.voter-check.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>.

To vote at the polling place on Election Day, the completed ap-

plication must be submitted on or before the third Friday before the election, which is October 19, this year.



**National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

have been identified include retail choice, net metering, regulations affecting electric utilities, and protecting your investment in your public power system. At the federal level, issues include health care, EPA/environmental regulations, budget, renewable tax credits and taxes.  
Being able to affect this legislation helps us to keep public power safe, reliable and cost effective for

all our customers, but it is up to you to vote and put good people into the legislatures. Let your views and voice be heard by voting.  
If you would like to sign up for our grassroots alerts to take action on specific issues that affect you throughout the year, please contact Jennifer Adams at [jadams@erppd.com](mailto:jadams@erppd.com) or call the office at (402) 675-2185.

Each year the Elkhorn Rural PPD board of directors adopts a political action plan. The plan helps to guide our legislative involvement by identifying issues to monitor or provide feedback to our legislators.  
At the state level issues that

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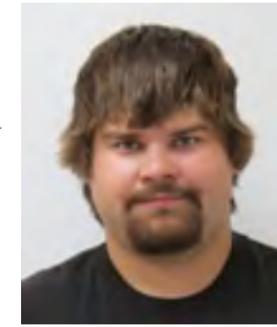


Register to vote @ [www.nrea-action.org](http://www.nrea-action.org)

## NEW APPRENTICE LINEMEN

Blake Papik and Taylor Stanley were hired as apprentice linemen for Elkhorn.

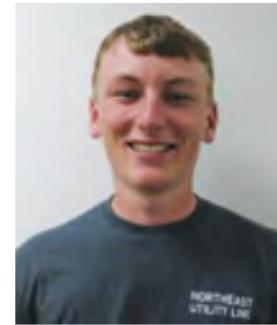
Blake has been working with the Battle Creek crews for the summer. He is from Exeter, NE, and has worked as a farmhand at a cattle company and as a mechanic’s assistant at a construction company and garage. He took some schooling for mechanical engineering before deciding that line work and a more active work style were more of what he wanted to do.



Blake Papik

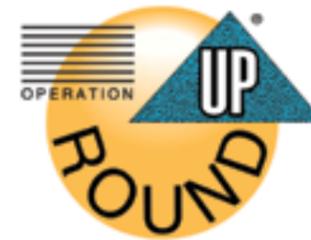
Blake played football in high school and was part of Cornhusker Boy’s State. He also achieved rank of “Life Scout” in the Boy Scouts of America.

Taylor has been working with the Neligh crew. He is from Clarkson, NE, and has worked in maintenance at a hog confinement and as an electrician’s assistant. He was also the owner of a mowing and landscaping business in Clarkson. Taylor was part of the Clarkson FFA in high school.



Taylor Stanley

Both men have shown that they are hard workers and are willing and excited to learn about the trade and take care of our customers. We are looking forward to having them in the Elkhorn Rural PPD family.



The next round of Community Development Fund applications will be due **Monday, November 19**.

Information, guidelines and applications are available online at [www.erppd.com/community-development-fund](http://www.erppd.com/community-development-fund), or call the office at (402) 675-2185 and ask for Jennifer.



September 22, 2018

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you’re done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Sub-district I Opening

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board of Directors announces it has a Sub-district I vacancy.

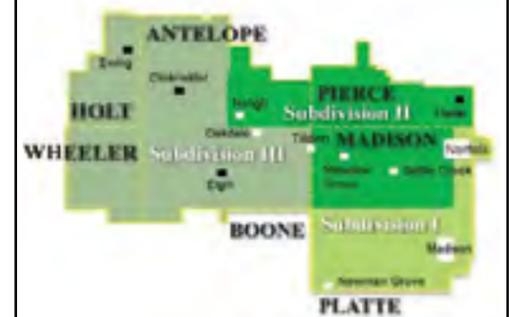
Those interested in applying will need to meet statutory requirements: “A candidate for director shall be a registered voter residing within the chartered territory or subdivision as defined in the charter of the district or a retail customer duly certified in accordance with subsection (3) of section 70-604.03. See the map below for the subdivisions.

Those applying for the board position should fill out a questionnaire and submit it to the office Attn: Board President, 206 N. 4th, Battle Creek; by mail to Mark Miller, Board President c/o ERPPD, P.O. Box 310, Battle Creek NE, 68715; by fax 402-675-6275; or e-mail with subject line: “Board Position Letter of Interest” to [trudloff@erppd.com](mailto:trudloff@erppd.com), no later than **4:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2018**.

Candidates can contact the office for the questionnaire or find it on the [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) website under job opportunities.

Candidates will be contacted to set up a time to speak with the General Manager and Board President about the expectations for the position.

If you have questions please contact the office at 800-675-2185 and ask to speak with Tom Rudloff, General Manager.



# Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

-  Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
-  Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
-  Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
-  Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
-  If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

**800-675-2185**

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## OVERHEAD VS UNDERGROUND

With pictures, like the one below, in the news recently, you might be asking yourself, why don't they use more underground electrical infrastructure?

It comes down to reliability, cost and access. While overhead lines might come into more contact with the elements, it is less costly to construct and to find problems when there are outages. Underground is much more expensive to install and when there is a problem it can be harder to find and more costly to fix.

Underground electric systems also don't last as long, having about half the life span of overhead infrastructure.

We mitigate as much of the damage to our overhead lines as we can by doing maintenance, system upgrades and vegetation management.

Cost benefit analysis for overhead and underground infrastructure is conducted on each of our projects. We look for what will best move forward the goal of ERPPD to serve our customers with safe, reliable and cost effective electricity.

