



27th year 8th Issue

September 2016

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#### CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS:

- Herren Brothers True Value
- Same As It Once Was
- Country Corner Hair Shop
- Rough and Refined
- Miller Soap Company

(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS)



## EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Lineman Jeff Sinkular (above photo) creates an arch of fire, using his insulated "hot stick" and 7200 volts off the "hot line" (1/2 of the voltage NEA runs), making a strong visual impact for the crowd watching at the Niobrara County Fair.

A broken line dangling in the air doesn't immediately look dangerous. After seeing the power of an energized line when it comes into contact with an un-insulated object however, the potential damage becomes frighteningly clear.

When you encounter a downed line you won't know for sure if the line is energized or not, unless you see it interacting with something, making contact. You do NOT want to find out the hard way that it is energized. We stress to our members they should always consider a line energized and stay away from it. Call the Co-op and we will take care of it.

On different occasions throughout the year we provide education & safety learning opportunities. To facilitate better state-wide coverage, several Co-operatives have invested in building 1/4 scale sized, portable safety demo trailers so education can more easily be provided. This year, we borrowed from our neighbor, Wyrulec, for use at both the Sioux County and Niobrara County Fairs.

If you have electrical safety education questions, call and speak with Rick Bridge or Ken Ceaglske.

## NATHAN'S QUEST



Photographed in his campaign shirt, Nathan Fish, along with Tri-State's emissary for Power Makes It Possible (<http://www.powerworksforyou.coop/>) and proud Dad, Jason Fish.

Many months have passed since a young Nathan Fish's quest to get his beloved sport of wrestling into Sports Illustrated began. His passion for spreading the message of wrestling's rightful place within the pages of the popular magazine hasn't wavered over time.

In 2015, Nathan, with help from his family, made a video ([https://www.facebook.com/roxanne.fish/videos/10204961659428941/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/roxanne.fish/videos/10204961659428941/?hc_location=ufi)) detailing the virtues he sees in wrestling and his goal for gaining national print recognition in the iconic magazine.

This summer, his message was heard by Communications members with Tri-State G&T. As a child of cooperative members and the son of NEA's Wyoming Line Foreman Jason Fish, his profile piqued interest from people tasked with telling cooperative stories.

Telling that story is facilitated by a photo shoot Nathan did with Power. Later on, NEA will have professional photos from this shoot to continue the story.



## Tradesmen Day

The third Friday of September is National Tradesmen Day. A nationally recognized date to celebrate the men and women who work with their hands, building and resorting, all across our nation.

If you are, or know someone who demonstrates a desire to work in the Trades, give some serious thought to becoming a line worker. A number of scholarships for just such a calling are available: WREA Linemen Scholarship, Adkins Linemen Scholarship and the Dar Hackworth Linemen Scholarship. Applications for each of these are available in 2017 on our website.

At Niobrara Electric, we welcome inquiries from interested persons and we are a continuing presence in the local schools with safety demos and for career advisement. If you want to discuss a future with our cooperative or with line work, in general, call our office and speak with Kenny.

Photo on right of NEA Meter Tech/Journeyman Lineman Brandon Arnold.



Recently, Jacob and Kaelee Haney represented NEA at Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) in Halsey, NE.

Camp counselor, Brooke Herren, accompanied the two and together with around 60 other YELC members they spent an engaging week touring the Gerald Gentleman hydro plant, attending daily energy education and leadership training workshops, working on group projects and joining in typical summer camp sporting fun.

Congratulations to Kaelee, as she won the “Good Egg Award” and has the honor/opportunity of returning next year as a Junior Counselor.

We post information on YELC in the Spring on our website, in the newsletter and in the schools. It is a wonderful week of learning and fun with many opportunities to win awards, as Kaelee did.

If you are interested in attending the 2017 YELC camp, contact our office and speak with, Twyla.

[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)

[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association., Inc

PO Box 697 Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



**Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>**

## Office Hours

**Monday—Thursday**

**7:30 am—5:00 pm**

**Fridays 7:30 am—  
4:00 pm**

**Electrician Department**

**7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-F)**

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

The biggest news item coming out of the board room this month is the completion and acceptance of the four-year work plan. The board approved a work plan worth nearly \$6.5 million in line maintenance and upgrades. About \$2 million is all of the poles, meters, breakers, transformers and other miscellaneous equipment changes. This includes all of the things we need to do on a day to day basis to keep the system running and deal with outages, new services, and other situations.

The bigger part of the work plan is the major replacements and upgrades. Approximately \$4.5 million in expenses to replace 53 miles of line in the next four years. This will be the largest work plan in the history of NEA. We've come to a time in the life of the power lines where we need to step up the replacements to improve the reliability of the system. We have determined what parts of the system are both significantly deteriorated and also present the most risk to the reliability of the system. Much like a tree, the main three phase lines are the trunk, and without a solid trunk, the tree becomes unstable. That is why most of the projects we are starting with are main three phase lines. If they do not withstand the threats of nature, we wouldn't have power out in the smaller "branch" circuits.

The projects that we have planned include rebuilding 13 miles of the line coming out of Lance Creek and going south along 270, some work in the towns of Manville and Harrison, Keeline to Shawnee, Van Tassell to Duck Creek, as well as a couple miles south of Van Tassell, and finally about 12 miles going east out of Harrison. A few of these projects will be built in the same right of way where they are now, and we are looking at a few of them to be relocated to better locations, typically closer to roads for better patrolling visibility and access.

Kenny Ceaglske

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

## June Board Meeting

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business..
- Director Greer shared WREA business
- General Manager Kenny Ceaglske and Line Superintendent Rick Bridge shared a combined report on vehicle replacement plans, buildings and grounds plans, other capital projects, as well as safety training providers. Also, recent outages and planned maintenance at Podolak sub and discussion on the four-year work plan.