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Please remember to bring you Annual Meeting booklets with you to the meeting, as the last page serves as your registration. Turn in your proxy if you're not attending.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS

(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS):

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

LINEMEN APPRECIATION DAY

In April, Lineman Appreciation Day is celebrated. At NEA, we enjoyed the company of students with the Wyoming Early Child and Family Center.

Students presented NEA line men with a wonderful friendship rock with a painting and verse on it and linemen took the kids on a safety instruction tour around our facility. They saw bucket trucks and the skid steer in action, along with pole climbing. They also got hands on with personal protective equipment the crew wear to keep them safe around electricity.

Among the activities the kids enjoyed, was a cut out for them to put their faces in and have their pictures taken as linemen. Pictured above is Lane Clark, son on NEA Journeyman, Levi Clark.





Abandoned high voltage power line has built up over years on NEA's system, as new lines have been built, becoming a hazard and an unfunded maintenance/tax issue. Removing such line has moved up on the list of priorities line crews are addressing this year, making the new wire winder a welcome piece of equipment.

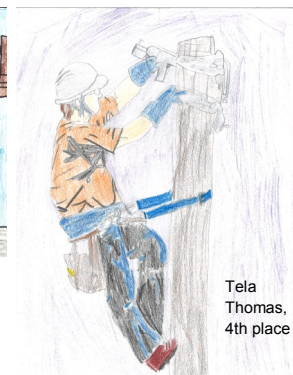
As seen in the picture above, the wire winder attaches to our skid steer and is used for spooling up wire for salvage. Wire that can be salvaged supplements funds for replacing small equipment and tools. The upgrade was made because previous equipment only allowed crews to wind up 1500 feet of removed power line at time and two crew members were need. The new wire winder will accommodate 2,000 lbs of wire or about 5 miles of line and only needs one operator, improving efficiency.

You still aren't using smarthub?

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- Bill paying
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These are only some of the reasons to use the smarthub. Call our Billing Department and discuss all the ways it can benefit you.



Congratulations to all the Line-man Drawing Winners. Nathan Fish's drawing was selected for 1st place and the honor of being the picture on this year's Cody Hotline School shirts.

Reminder to all interested 9th, 10th and 11th grade students, applications for Youth Energy Leadership Camp are due May 17th.

Youth Camp is an all expense paid camp supported by Niobrara Electric Association for member youth interested in learning more about leadership and the cooperative model.

Camp runs from July 9th through July 13th and offers individual and team building skills, sports and recreation time, a trip to Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant. Also, regional experts addressing the many issues affecting rural electrics, a chance to win a trip to Washington D.C. and/or be elected by your peers to return next year as a Junior Camp Counselor.

www.niobrara-electric.org
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NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association Inc

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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

**Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm**

Electrician Department

6:00 am—4:30 pm (M-TH)

Outages1-800-322-0544
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.

This newsletter should be arriving at about the same time as your annual meeting notice. Please, either hang on to that notice and plan to attend the meeting or ask around to folks you know that might be coming to Harrison on the 17th and give them your proxy card. If you do the proxy card option, be sure to print & sign it with the name that your account is in for it to be valid. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Last year we had an amazing turnout in Lusk despite the less than spring like weather. We'll have the usual financial presentation, as well as upcoming projects, updates from our state-wide association and Senior Vice President of Generation from Tri-State there.

We need to be sure to do our best to meet the quorum to have an "official" meeting. We've had a few years where we were close to not making it. How can you help? Watch for your annual meeting notice in the mail. If attending, bring your own notice with you. Ask your neighbors if they are attending and if not, if you can be their proxy. If you will not be attending, please fill out your proxy and get it to someone who will be there. Any member is allowed to be a proxy for up to 5 others, if they hold the proper proxy cards. This year's meeting doesn't have any contested races, or major issues, but I'd hate to see us get into a situation where we need quorum and can't make it. A few coops in the state have had the issue of not making quorum in past years. We have come close, but never missed. I do want to thank the dedicated members that show up to support the NEA in this business function of your electric coop.

Spring is also on the way (if the snow ever stops), with that means more activity in the pastures and back country. Please keep an eye open when working near NEA lines and poles. Winter brings many stresses to our lines, including ice and wind that can cause insulators, poles, or anchors to break or come loose. The wind and ice that we have seen in the past few months didn't do much damage significant enough to cause widespread outages but may have caused damage to some less critical parts that may present an issue in time. If you see something that doesn't look right, please keep yourself and any livestock a safe distance away and notify the office as soon as you can.

Manager Kenny Ceaglske

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
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Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Board Room News

- Manager Ken Ceaglske covered Annual Capital Credit refunds and Annual Meeting information.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge reported on Lance Creek work plan, safety topics and upcoming training.
- Director Greer updated everyone on WREA business.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State business report.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.