



29th year 8th Issue

September 2018

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*NEA will be closed on Monday,
September 3rd for Labor Day*

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



“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”

William Arthur Ward

Pictured furthest left in the photo, Niobrara Electric Association's Wyoming Line Foreman, Jason Fish, among other co-op volunteer instructors at Cody Hotline School..

As we all were preparing to send our children back to school, linemen from all over Wyoming and the surrounding states (Montana, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah and Nebraska) were headed to Cody, Wyoming for the annual Cody Hotline School to learn and hone their skills. Individuals at this school are there because they want to be there and they spend the week working to better themselves and their craft.

NEA Wyoming Line Foreman Jason Fish volunteered, as all the school's instructors do, to serve his fellow line workers, sharing the experience and knowledge of his career. 2018 was the second year teaching Rubber Gloving at CHS school for Jason.

NEA has been involved since the inception of Cody Hotline School. Over the last 23 years we have sent students, instructors and support people along with equipment and tools to help make the hands on instruction a superior experience that line workers value and want to come back for more.



Meet Niobrara Electric's new apprentices in 2018...

Chance Wilder (middle) hired on in January. Coy Boland (top left) worked an internship January—May, then hired on full-time in July. Austin Francis (bottom left) just joined the crew in August.



These young men have all joined the NEA team and will be busy over the next four years working to complete both their class work & testing, as well as, their field hours so they can become Journeyman Lineman.

Niobrara Electric joined with Tri-State G&T and other electrical Co-ops from around the state at our Wyoming State Fair (held in Douglas, mid-August); each group taking a day to demonstrate who we are and what we do.



NEA Journeyman, Levi Clark, (pictured above) spent his Saturday at the State Fair engaging with interested attendees regarding pole climbing, safety and basic electricity information, from the distribution line to your home.



NEA Warehouse Coordinator Doug Lytle photographed Lusk local, Addison Stallman, (pictured above) at the Fair. She and her Mom, Michelle, stopped at the electric co-op tent, visited with Doug and received some handouts. She proudly shows off her NEA hard hat, as did two other un-named attendees (pictured left).



nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."



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.

As we wrap up the summer here, the work plan between Manville and Lance Creek is wrapping up as well. The contractors will take a brief break from working for NEA and will head into town, working for Lusk for a few weeks on annual rebuilding that they do. In the meantime, we have been stocking up on supplies and plans for the next projects that they will be working on.

Starting this fall we will have them rebuilding a short stretch of line from the Van Tassell Substation headed south on the line that eventually feeds past Agate Fossil beds and our southern territory in Sioux County. We will only be doing the first couple miles to a natural stopping point. Over the next few years, more of that line will likely get some attention.

They will also be cleaning up the miscellaneous issues that were found on the transmission line just north of Lusk that we flew with the drone recently. Many of these problems are small in nature, but big with potential. The contractor that we use has access to taller bucket trucks than we have, making it easier to safely reach the areas that need attention.

The larger project that will follow will be from the Van Tassell Substation headed west through Van Tassell towards Duck Creek. This line is showing significant signs of aging, and currently runs through many pastures that are miles from regularly traveled roads making patrolling and maintaining it difficult. We are planning on rerouting it closer to the highway for as much of the route as possible to limit impact to the pasture land, and improve access. There are some services that are in the former route area, and we will most likely utilize the existing lines in those places to maintain service to those, replacing only the poles that are in poor condition.

General Manager Kenny Ceaglske

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Board Minutes

- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge discussed work plan updates, safety topics, linemen hiring, and recent work in the Podolak station
- Manager Ceaglske reported on upcoming regional and national meetings, capital credits, RUS operations review, and guideline updates.
- Director Keener updated the board on NREA news.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA issues.
- Director Hammond discussed Tri-State business.