

Watts New

September, 2021

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

Wow! September already! 2021 is almost three quarters over! Where has it all gone? It does seem like the busier you are the faster the time goes, and “busy” does not even begin to describe life these days!

As I write this, we are getting ready for the Wyoming State Fair next week with the rest of the Wyoming electric cooperatives and Tri-State Generation and Transmission. This fair has proven to be a great way for all of us to interact with other Wyoming cooperative members and explain the Cooperative Difference to those folks who are not cooperative members . . . at least not members yet!

At the fair we not only use this opportunity to explain the Cooperative Difference, we also use it to teach electrical safety classes with our live safety trailer demonstrations. We allow those interested, to test their abilities strapping a on lineman belt and hooks to climb a power pole! It is a great way for the linemen to showcase their skills and meet members in a less formal setting. If you were not able to make it by the booth this year, please put it on your calendar to come by next year. We would love to see you there!



Jumping to other things that are keeping us busy. We are bringing some larger loads to the system. The Finnerty Delivery Point and substation will provide power to a new pipeline pumping station outside of Guernsey and is scheduled for completion in the near future. This has been a project spanning several years that had its hiccups with the pandemic restrictions but thanks to Jason and his crews, the project is getting there!

We are in the early planning stages of a few other projects that are also fairly large electrical loads. While none of these projects bring a large workforce to run them, they do bring the sale of electricity which is a good thing for your electrical cooperative. The planning and discussions upfront are significant but the more planning you do up front, the better the projects go in the long run. This can be seen with the Finnerty project. If it were not for the planning staff put in upfront, I am not sure where this would have gone with the challenges of the restrictions. Thanks to Jason for his work!

On other happenings, things are somewhat quiet on the Tri-State front, we are at an in-between point in the intervention. Tri-State did close on their purchase of the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency portion of the Laramie River Station and associated transmission lines. This now gives Tri-State 28.5% ownership in the project. They can use this increased portion to sell into the power market especially during this time when power prices are higher. By selling this additional power to those utilities that are not Tri-State members, it puts downward pressure on our rates, therefore downward pressure on your rates! Generation plants such as LRS that have “dispatchable” energy, energy that you can rely on regardless of weather conditions, is becoming increasingly valuable as some states like California and Colorado enact renewable energy requirements. Those states now have a choice, they can pay for power that is reliable and available or they can have their lights go out.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, the wonderful member-owners of Wheatland REA. Thanks for all you do to keep our area such a wonderful place to live and raise families. Stop in and let us know if you have any questions or what is on your mind. We are here to serve you!

**Watts New is a publication of
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**2154 South St.
Wheatland, WY 82201
www.wheatlandrea.com
(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351**

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

**REA SUMMER HOURS
Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
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**OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS
(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351
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From the office of RKA,

Here we are already...September 2021. Honestly, where did this year go? It doesn't seem like the kids should be headed back to school and college students back to their respective universities.

August was busy around here at the co-op with the Platte County Fair and the State Fair in Douglas. If you went to the State Fair, I hope that you stopped by the Wyoming REA booth that was there. Kudos to Big Al for coordinating this event with the other state co-ops. It's not easy to "herd" all of us co-ops together for an event! LOL!

In August, we had quite a few members contact us and state that they received telephone calls that the co-op was threatening to disconnect their electricity if they did not pay immediately. The telephone calls were not from the local area. **THIS IS A SCAM!** First, we have procedures that we must follow before we just "immediately" disconnect someone. Second, the person that would be calling you would be me and if not it would be one of my employees on my behalf. It would not be a stranger! When we do get this information, we share it on Facebook and our website. If we get quite a few calls from members, we will run an ad on the radio. Again, any questions, please give me a call.

Every September, it is time for the cooperative to post the capital credit allocations for the previous year's margins. This year, the allocation notices will be going out in the mail in October. Because of the audit being held later in the year, this pushed back the timeline for the approval of the audit report by the board of directors at the September meeting. The capital credit allocations will be for the financial year of 2020. Remember, this is only a notice of the allocations being credited to your capital credit account and not the amount of the capital credit retirement check that we do at the first of the year. If you have any questions, please give me a call at the office.

Fall is also the start of planning for the 2022 budget. Again, I have talked about my "crystal ball" and its lack of assistance with this area and again, it is the same this year. The economy plays a huge factor in not only the cost of materials but also the need for large power pumping to continue/decrease or increase. And Mother Nature.... what is her attitude going to be next year? Again, the main driver for this is you as members and how we can continue to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while still maintaining a strong cooperative. This is management's main goal.

I want to thank you all for taking the time to fill out the brightly colored insert that was in your July bill for updated information. It was very successful! Please keep in mind that if you do change your mailing address or any of your telephone numbers, to give the office a call. I can't stress the importance of having correct telephone numbers on file. We never know when we will have an emergency and must call you. It makes our lives a little less stressful if we have the correct telephone number and can get a hold of you immediately!

Homefront...quiet and hot!! Discussions being held on landscaping/remodeling.....stay tuned! That's all I got!!!

Until next month.....



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®



2021 Scholarships

Bailey Benson- \$200 WREA Employees
Bailey Fitzwater- \$500 BEPC
Christian Miller- \$500 BEPC
Joseph Hernandez- \$200 Directors' & Manager's
Kaesha Davis- \$500 Tri-state G&T
Keegan Meyer- \$500 Tri-state G&T Director's
Miranda Hanks- \$200 WREA Employees
Natalie Condie- \$500 Tri State G&T Director's
Nolan Smialek- \$200 Director's & Manager's
Brock Tamlin- \$200 WREA Employees
Darci Tamlin- \$500 Tri State G&T



Congratulations and Best of Luck in your future endeavors!

Winter Hours

On October 4th we will switch
to winter hours.

**Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm**



September 23rd
In downtown Wheatland!
Fun for the whole family!

LIEAP

(Low-Income Energy Assistance Program)

Administered by the Wyoming Department of Family Services, the purpose is to help low-and fixed-income households to pay their energy bills during the winter months. The federally-funded program gives priority to the elderly (60+), disabled and/or those with young children.

To fill out an application go to www.lieapwyo.org or call 1-800-246-421 or stop by our local DFS office.

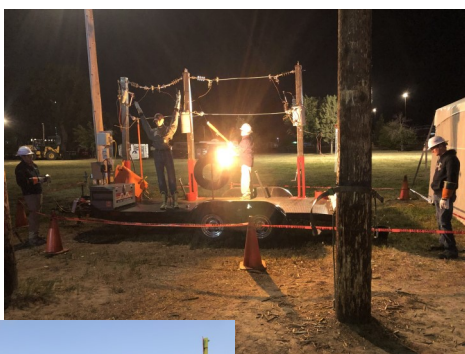
To enroll call our office 307-322-2125 or you can sign up on our website. www.wheatlandrea.com.





Bracken Profaizer is our newest journeyman lineman. Bracken recently relocated from West Virginia but is originally from Utah. Bracken is married to Brittney and they have 2 kids. Say "Hi" when you see them around and welcome them to wonderful Wheatland!

STATE FAIR 2021



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