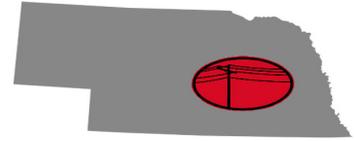


# POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

'The Livewire'

"Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable, and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation."



August 2019

## Local Students Tour Washington, DC



**M**ackenzie Pinney and Bailey Urkoski were among more than 1800 students from across the country that visited Washington D.C. June 14-21. They represented Polk County Rural Public Power District on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Nebraska Rural Electric Association hosts students from across Nebraska to attend the annual event.

Urkoski, a 2020 senior at High Plains Community School, said the Youth Tour was an opportunity of a lifetime and a chance to meet others from across the country.

Pinney and Urkoski visited many monuments and memorials including the Washington Memorial, Jefferson Memorial,

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, Gettysburg battlefield, the White House, and more. "Mount Vernon was my favorite," said Pinney, also a 2020 senior at Osceola Public Schools. "It was amazing to visit Washington's home and tomb."

While in Washington, the students learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, how our government operates, and about how and why rural electric systems were formed. One of the highlights of the trip included meeting Nebraska elected senators. "We were able to speak with Senator Fischer and Senator Sasse about the problems facing Nebraska, like the spring flooding," said Pinney. "I was impressed that Senator Fischer spoke with us, one on one, as

adults," added Urkoski.

These students represent the next generation of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities and country. The teen delegates are challenged to consider the part they play in government, to become involved in their communities, and to consider careers in public office.

During the Youth Tour, one representative from each state is selected to return to Washington for the Youth Leadership Conference held in July. After delivering a speech about what inspired her during the Youth Tour, Urkoski was selected to represent Nebraska. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the other state representatives. They are amazing people."

High school Juniors who attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Leadership Camp are eligible to apply for the Youth Tour while at camp. Those who are interested should contact PCRPPD for more information.





## A Nebraska Camping Oasis

**R**ob Schwab knows summer wouldn't be summer without camping.

And that is why he and his wife, Robin, have developed Fisher's Cove, the area's first premier RV park. Along with venture partners Tommy and Nancy Greco, and a few silent partners, Schwab has turned his love of the outdoors into an opportunity for others to enjoy their love of the outdoors and camping in rural Nebraska. "We wanted the experience and we thought it would be fun to do," Schwab said.

The group had been bouncing around the idea of developing a premier campground for almost ten years before finally finding the perfect location.

Despite being heavily overgrown, the first time Schwab visited the site just south of Silver Creek, he saw their vision come to life and knew the location was perfect. With an adequate amount of land to accommodate all the planned features, it filled the essential water requirement and was the right combination of convenience combined with Nebraska rurality. Greco, who serves as managing partner, stated "This is the culmination of years of planning and searching for the perfect location. I could not be happier with this opportunity to provide the best camping experience possible."

Fisher's Cove amenities include sand beaches, hiking trails, dog run, on-site laundry,

modern shower facilities, and state of the art Wi-Fi, so you will only be disconnected if you want to. Activities include swimming, hiking, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, sand volleyball and a future boat ramp is planned to allow small trolling motors. A small, on-site convenience store is stocked with ice, water, soft drinks, frozen treats, a few basics forgotten from home, and fresh coffee every morning.

Schwab, having grown up in Hooper (pronounced hu-per), knows the unique value of rural Nebraska. Nightly reservations are accepted, but the park will focus on seasonal campers. "Most of us are from small towns and it is very much a small town community at the park. Everyone looks out for each other," says Schwab.

While the development of Phase 1 was slowed a bit this spring by the flooding, affecting the ability to have supplies and gravel delivered, the group is already looking to the future of Phase 2. Greco said "As we grow, we will add amenities and more camping pads and cabins to meet the needs and desires of our customers. We want to be very customer oriented."

For more information on Fisher's Cove, please visit [fisherscovervnpark.com](http://fisherscovervnpark.com).



Robin Schwab stands next to one of two meter banks, each holding over 30 electric meters. PCRPPD is utilizing its Pre-Paid program at the RV park, allowing campers to "pay as they go" and manage their account remotely.

# Fall Is For Tree Planting

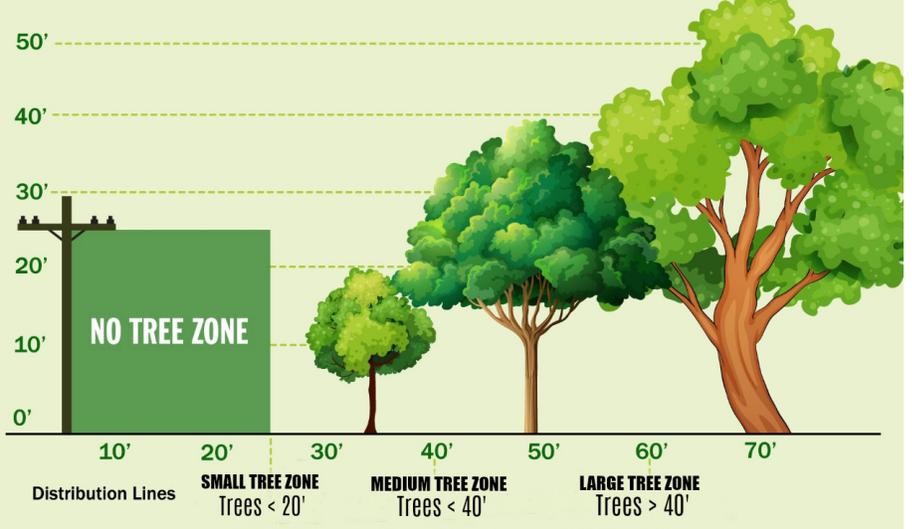
Fall is the ideal time for tree planting because it allows the roots to become established before the ground freezes and winter sets in. However, many factors should be considered prior to planting.

When planning what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and look down to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. The location of these lines should have a direct impact on your tree and planting site selection.

Mature tree height must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree.

Before you plant, make sure you are aware of the location of any underground utilities. To avoid service disruption and fines, always contact Nebraska 811 prior to digging by calling 1.866.711.7281 or on-line at nelcall.com

## TREE PLANTING GUIDE NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES



## Value Starts Here

Did you know that for less than \$5 a day, you can keep your home at a comfortable temperature, bathe in hot water, cook meals, wash clothes, watch television and power your computer and smart phones? Now that's a bargain!

Electricity truly powers our daily lives. It not only fuels what we consider necessities like lighting, refrigeration, water heating or air conditioning, it is also essential for today's technologies like cell phones, televisions, and computers.

Electricity is so abundant and affordable that most people only think about it when the power goes off and when they receive their bill. Compared to other daily goods like gasoline and groceries, electricity prices have remained relatively low.

### Second Quarter Lease Payments Made

Lease Payments collected and returned on behalf of:

Osceola - \$35,095.91  
Shelby - \$24,111.43  
Silver Creek - \$15,817.69  
Clarks - \$18,189.22

### NEBRASKA FUN FACT

In the late 1800s, a Nebraska law forbid merchants from selling donut holes. A lawmaker claimed donut holes were a waste, and that by selling the middle of the donut, bakers were making an undue profit. Thankfully, the law was repealed in the late 1990s.

### What You Get With \$1 of Electricity

- 769 slices of toast
- 544 pints homemade ice cream
- 493 blender smoothies
- 158 hours on your laptop
- 59 hours of Xbox play time
- 32 hours refrigerator use
- 19 loads of laundry

# Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo

## Industry Olympics

The Nebraska Lineworkers' Rodeo, an annual Nebraska State Fair event since 2012, is a great family friendly opportunity for the public to get an up-close look at lineworkers as they demonstrate what it really takes to keep the power on. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for linemen to practice, in a controlled environment, what it takes to remain safe, so they ultimately can go home at the end of the workday.



The rodeo provides the linemen an opportunity to learn and share with peers as they practice the challenges faced every day and reinforce the training they need to get home safely. While designed to let linemen show off their on the job skills and safety practices, the event is also an opportunity to throw down a challenge to other district linemen, vying to be the best in Nebraska. Friend-

ly competition aside, participants know the rodeo cultivates a pride in the trade and a kinship among linemen, family, and friends in attendance.

The two-day event consists of team and individual competitions in the apprentice and journeyman divisions. Some of the challenges include pole top rescue, double-arm brace and capacitor exchanges, mystery events, and more. Apprentice linemen also face a written knowledge test. Competitors are judged on how safely and quickly they complete each challenge, and a judge carefully watches and deducts points for every infraction: a dropped nut, a slipped step that could mean greater consequences if repeated, a misplaced hand that could result in electrocution in a real setting.

The rodeo will take place during the Nebraska State Fair at 9:00 AM Saturday, Aug 24th, is open to the public and is free to attend. For more info, please visit <https://www.nelinerodeo.com> or contact Polk County RPPD.

### POWER OF BEING CONNECTED

Visit [www.pcrppd.com](http://www.pcrppd.com) to sign up today!



#### WHAT IS SMARTHUB?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.



## KNOW WHAT TO DO



**if in an auto accident  
with power lines**



If the car you are in hits a utility pole, your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized.

Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be **killed or seriously injured.**

**1. Do NOT leave the car and warn others to stay away.**

**2. Call 911 to have utility notified.**

**3. WAIT until a utility professional has told you it is safe.**



The **ONLY** reason to exit the vehicle is if it's on fire.

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle:  
**with feet together and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.**

Continue to **hop away** with your feet together as far as you can.

