



It is a gorgeous day today with bright sunshine and beautiful blue skies! Such a difference from a few days ago! The National Weather Service said that this storm rivaled the Blizzard of 1949. I have not seen the official stats for the local area, but the NWS said that the Cheyenne snow amount was slightly less than the 1949 amount.

As far as damage to the REA system, we had 60 poles break and, at one point, we had upwards of 2000 members out of power at one time. The largest part was due to the transmission line shutting off and lasted about two hours. The more significant system damage shut power off to around 1000 members. Crews worked hard through the deep and heavy snow and were able to gradually restore power in the various areas. The largest section that was out of service was served by the Palmer Canyon Line which runs up toward Rock River and includes the town of Garrett. This line had 15 poles broken near the east end of the canyon.

One of the 7 Cooperative Principles is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." As an example of this "Cooperation", three Co-ops, High West Energy from Pine Bluffs, Carbon Power and Light from Saratoga, and Tri-State G&T, our wholesale power supplier out of Colorado, sent crews to assist with our restoration. This assistance was invaluable and greatly appreciated! It is truly heartwarming to see the support in our Cooperative family! Thanks to all Cooperatives who offered assistance!



One of the biggest challenges we had in restoring power was access to the damaged areas. Many of our lines are not next to roadways, even if the roads were plowed! To overcome this challenge, we had to bring in a helicopter to assist the crews. This helicopter ended up saving money as well as several days' work! In one instance, crews were flown to an area near Harris Park to operate a switch. The helicopter trip was completed in about 15 minutes. If we had used the next choice of a snowcat, it would have taken a full day! This would have kept the crew away from other restoration work! We saved days of outage time with the helicopter!

For the main muscle, once we found the problems, we sought the help of local folks with access to heavy equipment such as bulldozers and loaders. At one point we used a D8 Caterpillar to clear paths for our equipment. This Cat had to work but it got us in there and out to make the repairs!

It goes without saying that the efforts of our crews and the crews from High West Energy, Carbon Power and Light, and Tri-State G&T were stellar! The guys worked themselves to exhaustion, committed to getting our members' power restored! I cannot express my appreciation enough to these dedicated linemen, as well as the office staff who helped organize all of the support and took calls from the members. A fantastic job done by all! While one member said, "every day should be Lineman Appreciation Day", it is only fitting that the 18th of April is the official Lineman Appreciation Day and the 21st of April is Administrative Professionals Day! What a great way to recognize the efforts of these dedicated professionals! Thanks to all!

I was hoping to give you a report of the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting in this article, however, due to the weather, it was necessary to postpone the meeting by one week and this article had to be submitted prior to the meeting. Please watch our website and Facebook posts for a report of the meeting. Thinking positively, next year we will again be able to meet together in the remodeled 4H Building!

It is times like these, seeing the efforts of the REA employees, as well as understanding the patience of the wonderful member-owners of Wheatland REA that I love being part of the Cooperative Difference!

Thanks for letting us serve you!

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Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

**REA SUMMER HOURS
Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
CLOSED Friday**

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From the Office of RKA....

Well, the year of 2021 has not let us down for excitement, has it!?!?! We are into Spring 2021, but as I write this article, we are still digging out from Marchmageddon2021!! But not only did we deal with an unprecedented snowstorm, but we are also still dealing with COVID19.

Again, our annual meeting set for March 17, 2021 was postponed until March 24th. This, of course, was due to the massive snowstorm we had. Then March 24th meeting became a drive-thru where you registered, picked up your voucher, goody bag and capital credit retirement check. Maybe someday, we will be able to get together and sit and enjoy each other's company. Until then, we hope that you were able to get in and get your Wellness Voucher for the blood draw. This event will take place on June 16, 2021, hopefully with no unforeseen events!

If you did not get into the meeting, we sent the capital credit checks out in the mail. Please, be patient! The USPS has had some difficulty since the COVID because of each state either being totally closed or partially opened. Then the storm in March did not help their causes. So, if you think that you should have received a check and do not have one by the end of April, please give the office a call.

So, the Marchmageddon2021 gave us a one/two punch but let me say this, our linemen took that punch, got back up, and proved who was the stronger person. One day after the storm, I took a quick tour with Jason and watched the crew in action. Let me tell you.... I have always appreciated our crew and their outstanding work but to truly see them in action, makes you appreciate them that much more! Not only is climbing an art and a workout, but trudging through the thick snow, carrying materials, setting poles, etc. is toiling work. These guys never grumbled and never stopped until everyone had their lights back on. Hats off to these gentlemen! They are one of a kind!

With our linemen in mind, April is Linemen's Appreciation Month! If you see any of the crew, please tell them thanks for all their hard work and dedication. Thanks to Frosty, Poston, Clay, Jared, Levi, Brandon, Chuck, Brent, Jeff, Jeremiah, and Scott! Your dedication to this coop is immeasurable!

Well, at the home front, while we were getting snowed upon, my hubby was taking in some fishing on the Columbia River. Unfortunately, he got stuck in Casper for a few days on the way home. He had a great time, and I am thinking that is on the vacation itinerary for the summer. While he was stuck, I did shovel an area for him to get his truck into the driveway. After about 2-3 hours, I got the measuring tape out and said, "Yep, that is big enough to get his pick-up in". So, when you see him, make sure you remind him to appreciate his other half. LOL! We are keeping our fingers crossed for the northern border to open so we can head up there for fishing. It is time....

Until next month....



SUMMER HOURS

Begin May 3rd; End Sept. 24th

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 7:00 AM TO 5:30 PM

2021 Scholarships

Bailey Benson- \$200 WREA Employee
Bailey Fitzwater- \$500 Basin Electric Power Co-op
Christian Miller- \$500 Basin Electric Power Co-op
Eryn Halvorsen- \$500 Tri-State G&T
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 Employee
Natalie Condie- \$500 Tri-State G&T Director's
Nolan Smialek- \$200 Directors' & Manager's
Joseph Clamp- \$1500 Missouri Basin Power Project
Patrick Kernan- \$1500 Missouri Basin Power Project



Our 83rd and 84th Combined Annual Meeting is now history. Watch your May WREN insert for highlights.

Budget Billing



April is sign-up month...
DON'T FORGET!
CALL THE OFFICE TODAY!

ETS Members

A quick reminder: At midnight on April 30, 2021, all time-of-day members will automatically switch back to the standard residential electric rate for the months of May, June, July, and August. During these months the rate is \$.12619 per kWh for all electricity used, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

APRIL IS LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

When the weather is bad, the lights are out, and your house is getting cold... these guys are out there, in the cold, the wind, and the snow, working in the dark to find and fix your problem. We couldn't ask for a "gutsier" bunch! They leave their families and risk their lives to take care of the rest of us when mother nature is bullying us! If you see any of them out-and-about, tell them, "Thanks"!

LEFT SIDE,
TOP TO BOTTOM:

1. Jared Call
2. Jeff Loseke
3. Poston Anderson
4. Frosty Adams
5. Levi Eaton
6. Brandon Fluharty



RIGHT SIDE,
TOP TO BOTTOM

1. Clay Becker
2. Scott Struempler
3. Brent Jenkins
4. Jeremiah Stegman
5. Chuck Hiatt

