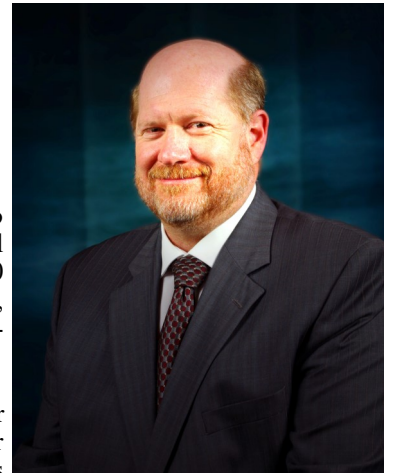




I hope everyone had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July and enjoyed the Independence Day celebrations. I hope that as you celebrated and enjoyed the fireworks and festivities, you remembered that the reason for the 4th is the celebration of our freedoms, for which many Americans have fought and died. We must be constantly vigilant, be it during war or in peace, to protect our freedoms. We must learn from history. It has been said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” I hope you had a great Independence Day!

As I write this, it is not officially summer, but it has been hot! Temperatures were well into the 90s or higher on a daily basis. On top of the high temps, it has been very dry. We all know how fast this can change and while I am not asking for snow, maybe not hitting 100 degrees would be nice. Some moisture would be great! We are getting into the fire season, and fires are breaking out in other states. We hope for an uneventful fire season in Wyoming!

You may have heard that Tri-State recently bought an additional portion of the Laramie River Station (LRS). The portion they bought was owned by the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency, which is now buying their power directly from Basin Electric. The question has been asked, “Why is Tri-State buying more coal assets when they are under so much pressure from Colorado to divest in coal?” One of the reasons for this purchase is ownership in transmission assets. As many of you are aware, the Missouri Basin Power Project is more than just LRS. It includes some of the area transmission lines. Ownership of these lines will allow Tri-State to ship power to other areas at lower costs. This will increase Tri-State’s ability to sell power which reduces upward price pressure on the existing Tri-State membership, including Wheatland REA.



Another benefit of this purchase is the ability to sell “dispatchable” power. Dispatchable power is power that is guaranteed to be available when you need it. Wind and solar are generally referred to as intermittent resources. This dispatchable power can be very valuable, especially during peak seasons and periods such as last summer in California, and again last February, especially in Texas. When there is a high demand on power, those generation owners that have dispatchable power available are paid premium prices. As an example, in February, Texas had such a power shortage that power was selling at the maximum allowable price of \$9,000 per megawatt hour on the wholesale market. This is 90 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). For comparison, at your house, the retail price you pay is less than 13 cents per kWh. That is a huge difference and shows the value of having the power available to sell. The current predictions are that there will continue to be a shortage of dispatchable power for the foreseeable future making this an attractive asset for Tri-State ownership.

Reliability is another benefit of this purchase. Looking again at February, while many areas of the Midwest and Texas were short of power and having to go through rolling blackouts, Wheatland REA and most of the Tri-State members did not have to experience these blackouts. Tri-State had enough power available to supply our needs. This purchase increases that reliability.

On the surface, this purchase may seem questionable. I hope you understand that this is a good thing for our area by reducing upward price pressures and increase reliability, regardless of what the political pressures may be in other states.

As always, we continue to stay quite busy at the REA, ensuring that we take care of your system as cost effectively and safely as we can. We have a fantastic and dedicated group taking care of the system. I am constantly in awe of their dedication and resourcefulness!

Thank you for letting us serve you! In these days of uncertainty in so many things, it is fantastic to live in a great area and work with such wonderful people! I hope you are well and please stop in and let us know what is on your mind! Thank you!

**Watts New is a publication of  
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From the desk of RKA...

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all of you! I hope you enjoyed a safe and wonderful holiday. Let us all remember why we celebrate on the 4<sup>th</sup> and embrace the freedom and independence that we often take for granted!

Our annual audit was delayed from June until July. By my next article, we should have received the final report on the financial status of the co-op. Once the board receives, reviews, and approves the report, I will be able to share any findings or concerns. Also, after it is approved, I will be able to allocate the 2020-year end operating margins to you as allocations. As we get closer to that stage, I will talk about it again.

In your July bill, you received a colorful insert. Please fill out the insert and just drop it by the office or mail it back to us. We are noticing again that telephone numbers have changed or have been disconnected for some of our members. It is extremely important that we have accurate telephone numbers for you. We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency. If you have any questions about the insert, please let me know.

Just a friendly reminder again, we will be voiding any outstanding capital credit retirement checks for the year 2021. When the checks are voided, the amount of each check goes back to the member's capital credit account and will be added to next year's capital credit retirement check. If you have any questions about your capital credit check or how the capital credit retirement rotation works, please give us a call.

I hope that you made it to the REA blood draw that took place on June 16, 2021. Hopefully, next year our annual meeting will look a little bit different than this year. Although, I did hear a lot of compliments about the simplicity and ease of being able to register, vote, get your "goodies" and register for the door prizes. In receiving e-mails around the nation from other co-ops, it seems that most co-ops that did a "drive-up/drive-in" annual meeting had great success and more of them stated that they had a better turn out of members this way than the regular annual meeting of getting together. If you have an opinion, one way or the other, we would love to hear from you! We want to do what is best for our members and provide the best meeting for you. So drive-up or hang out!?!?!? We will see what 2022 brings!!

Homefront has been endlessly hot as it is for everyone. I am not a "heat" fan and would rather layer up than try to figure out how to cool down. Our new patio has sure helped. I have been enjoying it very much and I really have not had the need for a fire pit!!! LOL!! Fishing has slowed up because of the heat so we have not been out much! Now the fence is in the works, and I am pretty sure that the dogs will be thrilled when they can stay outside for the day!

Until next month...



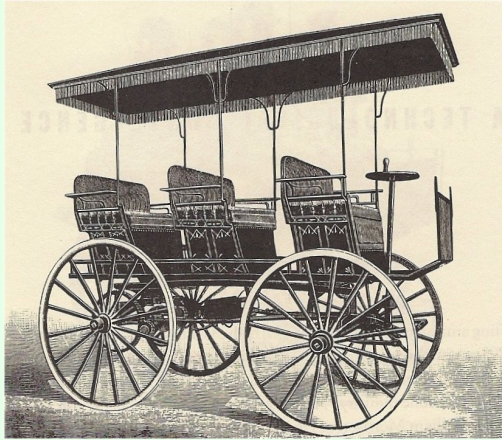
Where's our fence!?!?

Love, Drake and Grizz



# Platte County Fair 2021

**“Celebrating the Past and Constructing the Future”**



**1891 Electric Carriage**  
“Celebrating the Past”



**2020 Tesla, Electric Vehicle**  
Powered by Wyoming Coal, Natural Gas and Wind  
“Constructing the Future”

## 2021 STATE FAIR AUGUST 17-21

Come see us in Douglas at the Wyoming State Fair!  
Enjoy FREE ice cold water!  
We will be providing electric safety education all week.



## Who's new at Wheatland REA?



Sabrina Lee is a Financial Administrative Assistant. She's been in Wheatland for a year, and with us for 8 months. She is married to Joshua, they have 6 children, 3 dogs, 2 goats and 1 chicken!



Allie Eddington is a Financial Administrative Assistant. She grew up in Wheatland and is now raising her family here with husband Erik. She is married with 2 children.



Journeyman lineman, BJ Appleton, hails from Hooker, Oklahoma. BJ, and his lovely bride Nancy, joined our REA family last April. If you see him around town, or out on the power line, give him a "wave" and say, "Hi"!



Becky Condie is the new Member Service Coordinator. Becky and her husband Spencer have 3 children, the youngest just graduated from high school. Empty Nest!?!?!



**Tesla Electric Vehicle on Display**  
Lee Boughey, from Tri-State G&T, explains the value of electric vehicles to an unidentified Wheatland REA member-owner.

## New Journeyman



Congratulations Chris!  
GM Don Smith congratulates new journeyman meter technician Chis Urbanek upon completion of his 4-year apprenticeship training program.



### Picture Highlights of:

# 35th ANNUAL CHUGWATER CHILI COOKOFF



2000+ attended the Cookoff to enjoy lots of chili and other events throughout the day.



Team Wheatland REA: Head Chef Debi Smith, with Don Smith, Becky Condie, and Al Teel. We entered Debi's fabulous green chili in the competition!