



Veterans Memorial

Greenwood Cemetery
Franklin Nebraska
\$2,500 Operation ROUND UP
Grant Recipient

More ROUND UP News on
Pages 6-7



NEBRASKA LINEWORKERS RODEO

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Meet The Men Who Power Our Communities!

*Photo courtesy
of Laura Lovejoy*

The Nebraska State Fair is coming soon, and once again the Nebraska Lineworker's Rodeo is on the list of activities! The Rodeo is the ultimate venue for public power lineworkers to demonstrate their skills while competing within a range of categories that highlight their talents.

This year's event will be Saturday, August 24th beginning at 9:30 AM east of the Motorsports Track. Several lineworkers from Southern Public Power District will be competing this year, and they appreciate the support of spectators during this event!

Come out and watch Nebraska's lineworkers perform the tasks they do on a daily basis, along with a showcase of their emergency and rescue skills. Learn more online at www.nelinerodeo.com or follow the Rodeo on Facebook.

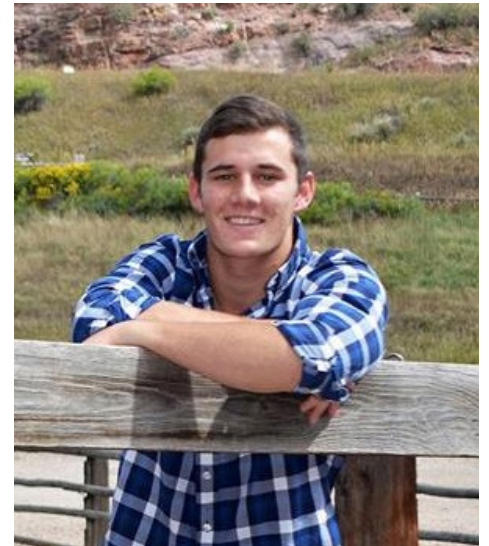


LINEWORKER CAREER...WHERE IT BEGINS

Every career has a specific path to follow. For utility lineworkers, that journey begins with a unique inspiration, which moves toward the commitment to pursue an educational training program. During the education process, future lineworkers begin training through internship programs. When these steps are completed, the future opens up wide for a brand new public power lineworker. In recent months, we have had two opportunities to begin engaging some great young men into the process of becoming a lineworker.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In May, Southern's Board of Directors presented Utility Lineworker Scholarship certificates to five successful applicants. Each of the scholarships awarded amount to \$2,000. These men and members of their families are pictured below.



Scholarship Recipients, left to right included: Tristen Evans, Cole Sunberg, Haden Dohrt and Andrew Dennis. Taylor Pulver also received a scholarship, but was unable to attend the presentation in May.

INTERNSHIPS

Six students who are currently working to complete their utility line-worker education began summer internships with Southern. In May, these men were assigned to work among SPPD crews to learn and observe some of the basic tasks they will one day complete on the job.

Our summer interns pictured top-bottom, left-to-right, include: Cody Barbee-Holdrege Crew; Ethan Snyder-Franklin Crew; Jacob Kubicka, Hastings Crew; Chase Dettman, Central City Crew; Jaden Garner, Grand Island Crew; and Tyler Cameron, Construction Crew.

We wish each of these men a safe and productive summer as they serve the customers of Southern Public Power District.



HELPING YOU FIND VALUE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR THE MODERN FAMILY

If you're struck by the number of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you're not alone. The typical American family is well-connected and owns many electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

How can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.



From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the programming periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open.

SMART THERMOSTAT INCENTIVE

Southern offers an EnergyWise™ Incentive for customers who install a qualified smart thermostat in their home. Incentives range from \$25 to \$75.

To begin:

1. Read the brochure and application available at www.southernpd.com.
2. Review a list of eligible smart thermostats, available on the link listed on the program brochure/application.
3. Confirm your home's HVAC system is compatible with the thermostat.
4. Install the unit and ensure an operative Wi-Fi connection (we recommend a professional installation).
5. Complete and submit the incentive application with proof of purchase to Southern. If professionally installed, submit a copy of your contractor's invoice.

SOURCE: Ann Prince, NRECA

Review Your Usage on SmartHub

As you begin to implement smart-enabled devices into your home and manage their use on mobile apps, don't forget that you can also monitor the results of your electrical usage on your SPPD SmartHub app. SmartHub allows you to view your account information in real-time. The app allows you to view your usage in comparison to local weather trends. Viewing the app regularly also allows you to view the differences in usage on an hourly basis. Perhaps you will notice spikes in usage at various times of the day as people filter in and out of your home. You can also monitor your usage on a daily basis, and you can see the impact of additional usage if you welcome weekend guests into your home. If you would like to learn more about SmartHub, contact our Customer Services Department.



HELPING YOU FIND VALUE

MARATHON™ WATER HEATER

Southern continues to offer its Marathon™ Water Heater program for our residential customers. If you are interested in a 50-gallon or 85-gallon unit, we offer packages for new construction, conversion from fossil-fueled units and upgrades from existing electric water heaters. The current unit prices are listed below:

CONVERTING

From Natural Gas or Propane
to a Marathon™, or
or NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

UNIT SIZE	SERVICE CHARGE *With Time Clock
50-Gallon	\$325
85-Gallon	\$125*

UPGRADING

Existing Electric Water Heater
to a Marathon™

UNIT SIZE	SERVICE CHARGE *With Time Clock
50-Gallon	\$565
85-Gallon	\$510*



Complete program details are available at www.southernpd.com, or contact Sam Reinke at Southern Public Power District.

* Water Heater comes equipped with a load management time clock, required. Inspection of time clock is mandatory, installation not included, one water heater per household.

LANDSCAPING AROUND UTILITY EQUIPMENT

Inside most residential subdivisions served by SPPD, many creative measures are taken to camouflage pad-mounted transformers and utility equipment. We confess, this equipment is not aesthetically pleasing. But, it is important equipment that provides reliable service to homes. During power outages, this equipment can be difficult for our lineworkers to locate when tall foliage is blocking their view, especially at night. Additionally, some foliage hinders their ability to quickly access the inside of transformers, which causes outages to last longer.

In order for our lineworkers to locate these units and make repairs, we recommend keeping shrubs and foliage at least three feet from all sides, and ten feet from the side with doors.

When lineworkers are required to open these boxes, landscaping that is obstructing the equipment may be damaged or removed, and will not be replaced by Southern.



COMMUNITY NEWS

ROUND UP GRANT AIDS IN DISASTER RECOVERY

When the City of Wood River experienced the devastation of the floods in March, services provided by the town's Senior Center were affected. "The building that houses our Senior Center and Food Pantry was not functional", says City Treasurer Christina Wemhoff. "In order to bring those vital programs back into operation, we needed to equip our building with a new furnace, water heater, and clean the floors that were under water."

The building has been a common place for seniors to gather for a morning or afternoon cup of coffee, and for lunch. Meals prepared in this building are also delivered to folks who are unable to get out and enjoy the lunches served on site. Obviously these services are important to senior citizens in the community, so repairs needed to be completed quickly in order to resume services.

To help offset the cost to replace the furnace and water heater, the City of Wood River applied for an Operation ROUND UP grant during the First Quarter of 2019. "The Board for the ROUND UP program recognized the need for these repairs, and awarded the full allocation of \$2,500," says LeAnne Doose, SPPD Public Relations Manager. "The Board had many projects to consider during the first quarter, but the hard work shown by the community in recent months clearly demonstrated their determination to bring their community back up to full speed. That level of commitment is exactly the type of effort we like to see in projects that are awarded a ROUND UP grant."

We thank participating SPPD customers who make ROUND UP funds possible to assist with projects throughout our communities!



FIRST QUARTER GRANT FUNDS TOTAL \$19,830

Village of Wood River Post Flood Furnace/ Water Heater	\$2,500	Village of Doniphan Field Conditioner, Baseball Field	\$1,500
Franklin County Senior Citizens, Inc Flooring, Exterior Brick Replacement	\$2,500	Trumbull Community Center Lighting Update	\$1,320
Village of Axtell Lighting Update	\$2,060	Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust AED Unit	\$1,250
Cairo Community Center Flooring	\$2,000	Platte PEER Group Bicycle Repair Station, Dark Island Trail	\$1,200
Phelps Memorial Health Center Radios	\$2,000	Giltner Booster Club Play Area	\$1,000
Doniphan Fire District Radios	\$2,000	Merrick County Child Development Center Infant Room Furniture	\$500

OPERATION ROUND UP HIGHLIGHTS

TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The Operation ROUND UP Program has been in “operation” at Southern for five years. In that time, the impact to communities has been tremendous. Projects that improve the health, safety and quality of life in rural Nebraska have been supported with grants totaling up to \$2,500. In all, a total of \$259,099 has been distributed to projects throughout our area of service. The program has grown significantly, and with that growth, we have experienced an increase in applications from many worthwhile projects.

How are funds collected?

Round up is funded by participating customers. Those enrolled in the program see their monthly bill “rounded up” to the nearest whole dollar. If a bill amounts to \$93.69, the total is rounded up to \$94, with 31 cents going to Operation Round Up for that month. Over the span of one year, the average amount of spare change contributed by an individual customer is about \$6. This may not seem like an impactful amount of money. But when you add it to the contribution of other participating customers, the results are tremendous! And the results can be seen in the number of projects completed throughout our service area!

How are funds distributed?

Four times per year, a seven-member board meets to review applications received. The group reviews applications, weighs each against the program guidelines, and practices good stewardship in awarding funds only to projects that provide benefit to Southern customers. Some of the most common applications include requests to fund equipment for volunteer fire departments, playground facilities, and improvements to community facilities.

How can I participate?

If you chose not to participate in the ROUND UP program previously, but wish to join in this effort, simply contact our Customer Services Department at 800-579-3019. Our representatives can get you started before the next billing cycle begins.

We thank customers who make this program possible. Together, we can all make a difference in the health, safety and quality of life in our communities and rural Nebraska!



Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much.

--Helen Keller



ROUND UP Board Members include: Terry Nelson, Phelps County; Jay Meyer, Franklin County; Terry Connick, Hall County; Terry Sorenson, Kearney County; Jayne Smith, Hamilton County; and Bill Bolte, Merrick County.

SAFE WORK ZONES



Every summer, crews take advantage of warm weather, and work hard to complete a variety of construction projects across the District. As they do, work zones are established as crews are deployed to work on new line construction or maintenance.

Orange cones serve as a barrier for traffic where men are working, and are a reminder to the public to use caution. As you see these work zones, please, slow down. Safety is our top priority at Southern and we want to assure that our employees return home safely at the end of their work day. We thank you for your attention to this matter, and wish you all safety in your daily commutes or summertime travel.

CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Keeping your contact information up-to-date is a key requirement for our accounts and billing process, but it also assures that we can respond to your calls efficiently during power outages.

When we experience large-scale outages, our call center has the ability to answer calls on an automated basis. This allows larger volumes of calls to be recorded, efficiently. But in order to accommodate phone calls this way, Southern needs to have established your primary phone number. And when you call to report an outage, entering that phone number allows you to report your outage on the automated system. This can help to prevent the longer wait that happens occasionally during major outage events.

If you would like to check the status of your contact information, please reach out to our Customer Services Department.



RECIPE

SWEET RESTAURANT SLAW

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (16 oz) bag coleslaw mix
- 2 T diced onion
- 2/3 C creamy salad dressing (such as Miracle Whip™)
- 3 T vegetable oil
- 1/2 C white sugar
- 1 T white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp poppy seeds

Combine the coleslaw mix and onion in a large bowl. Whisk together the salad dressing, vegetable oil, sugar, vinegar, salt, and poppy seeds in a medium bowl; blend thoroughly. Pour dressing mixture over coleslaw mix and toss to coat. Chill at least 2 hours before serving.

