



Lineworker Scholarships Offer Awards for One, or Two Year Programs

Southern is offering scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited school to begin a utility line training program. The awards range in value according to the student's chosen program.

Students attending a 1-year program at an accredited school are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship, and 2-year program students are eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

If you currently reside in Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties in Nebraska, you may apply. You must also agree to serve a 12-week summer internship with Southern in cooperation with the school you are attending.

If you are committed to becoming a skilled, safety-conscious, highly motivated lineman who would like the opportunity to work for Southern, we want YOU to apply for this scholarship.

Please call Brad Kool at (308) 384-2350 or (800) 579-3019 if you are interested.



SPD Newsletter

LIGHTING THE WAY
November 2017
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Hotline Demonstrations Light Up Farm Safety Camp

About 400 Adams County students attended the 15th Annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Day on October 9th. This event provides a wealth of farm-related safety information for students in 5th and 6th grade, and it is a great opportunity for our linemen to share life-saving information about the dangers of overhead power lines.



Manage Your Account with SmartHub

SmartHub is a customer self-serve solution that allows you to manage your SPD accounts with mobile and web apps in a secure environment. With this app you can easily view your billing, usage and payment history, pay your bill, submit your meter reading and all in a paperless format. Sign up from our website at www.southernpd.com.



CHEESY HAM & SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 lb fresh sweet potatoes (yam variety)
- 1/4 C butter or margarine
- 1/2 C onion, chopped
- 1/4 C flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp basil, crushed
- 1/4 tsp dry mustard
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1-1/2 C milk
- 1-1/2 C Swiss cheese, grated
- 3/4 lb ham, cooked, cubed

PREPARATION:

1. Wash sweet potatoes. Cook unpeeled sweet potatoes, covered, in small amount of boiling salt water until tender, about 20-30 minutes. Cool. Peel and slice 1/4 inch thick; set aside.
2. Melt butter in medium saucepan. Add onion, cook until tender. Remove from heat; stir in flour, salt, basil, mustard and pepper. Cook over low heat until bubbly, 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in milk all at once. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Boil and stir one minute. Remove from heat. Stir in 3/4 cup of cheese and the ham.
3. Pour half of mixture into greased 2 quart casserole. Arrange half of sweet potatoes on top. Repeat layers. Bake at 350° F, 25 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and bake 3-4 minutes longer, or until cheese has melted.

ROUND UP Grant Presented for Exciting New Park!

For families with children that have special needs, finding a safe place to allow that child to play, interact with other kids and enjoy all the experiences of exploring, can be a challenge! In fact, for families who live in Phelps County, the closest all-inclusive facility was located in Kearney. That was, until a group of insightful, focused members of this community came together to make such a park a reality in Holdrege.

This group, known as YEP (Youth Empowered by Play), pooled together all of their visions and talents to organize this effort and raised over \$200,000 in about one year. The park was constructed in recent months and was open to for kids to play in October.

The Operation ROUND UP program provided a \$2,500 grant toward this profound incredible project. It warms our hearts to see the effort and emotion put forth by the incredible people with the YEP committee. We are so proud of this group and we thank you for bringing this amazing feature to people in Phelps County. We also extend a big thank you to our customers participating in the ROUND UP Program for making this helpful grant possible!



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This newsletter is published as a service to Southern Power District's customers.

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Sights & Experiences

“Lone Tree Monument”

This month we are featuring a monument in Merrick County which, like many other monuments, requires you to dig down deep into your imagination and picture the grand spectacle of a special tree that was of great importance as a landmark in the 1800's.

The tree was a “lone tree” as its name states, which stood tall along the north side of the Platte River about three miles southwest of present day Central City. The cottonwood tree is said to have been 10-12 feet wide, and 50 feet tall. It was also said that the tree was able to be seen from as far as 20 miles away by early travelers across the prairie. Such a grandiose tree at that time was rare, except for trees that grew in stream valleys where they were well protected from prairie fires.

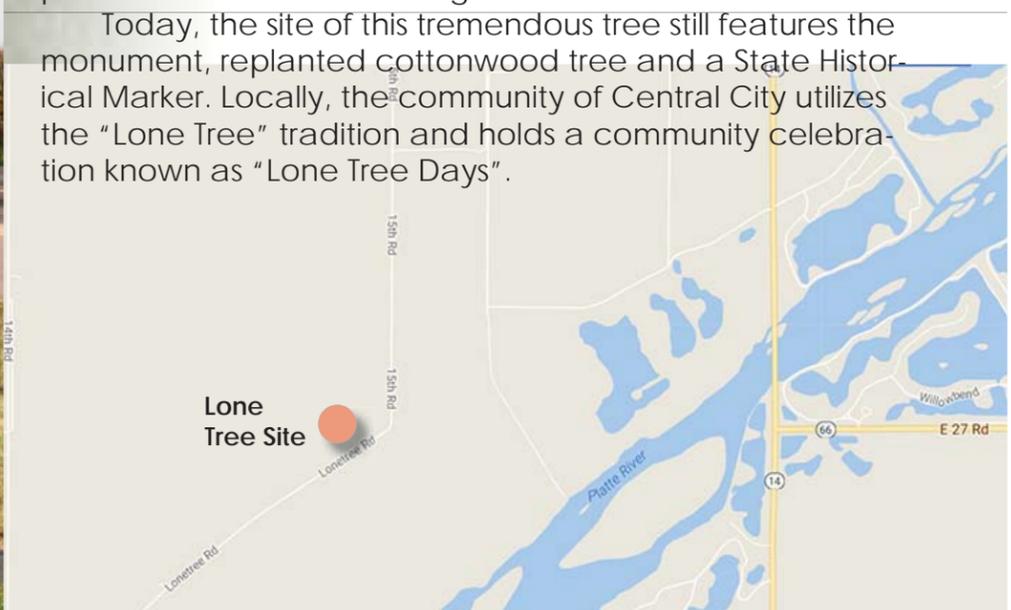
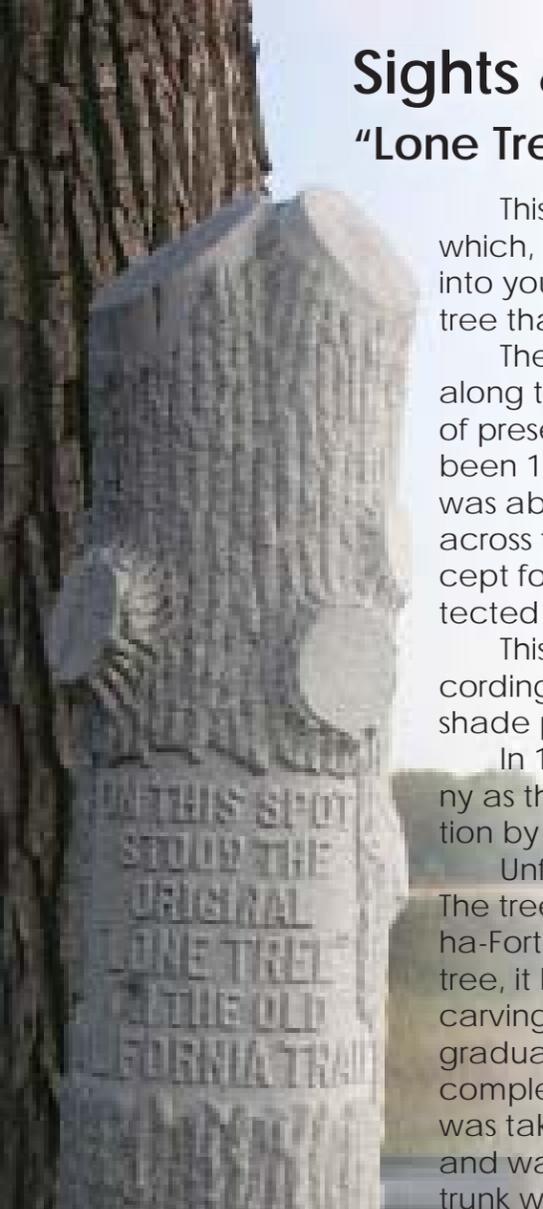
This tree was also known by Native Americans of that time. According to legend, Native American chiefs held council beneath the shade provided by this grand tree.

In 1858, the Lone Tree site was chosen by Western Stage Company as the site for Lone Tree Station. The station was built and in operation by 1860-1861.

Unfortunately, this enormous tree was no longer living by 1863. The tree was situated next to the Mormon Trail, as well as the Omaha-Fort Kearny stage route. With so many people passing by this tree, it had endured carvings in its bark over time. It is said that these carvings, along with campfires that occurred at the base of the tree, gradually weakened the tree and resulted in its death. The tree was completely toppled following a storm in 1865. The base of the trunk was taken to Lone Tree Station, which later became Central City, and was placed on the depot platform. Over time, pieces of the trunk were taken by tourists until it eventually disappeared.

In 1911, decades after the tree fell to the ground, Merrick County citizens recognized the historical importance of this tree and erected a granite monument to memorialize the tree. Thirty years later a new cottonwood tree was planted at the site of the original tree.

Today, the site of this tremendous tree still features the monument, replanted cottonwood tree and a State Historical Marker. Locally, the community of Central City utilizes the “Lone Tree” tradition and holds a community celebration known as “Lone Tree Days”.



EnergyWiseSM Tip: Weatherization

It doesn't take more than one winter of living in Nebraska to know it gets cold here! While about half the energy used in your home goes toward keeping you comfortable, roughly six times more energy is needed to keep your home warm during the heating season compared to the amount of cooling needed in the summer. How can you reduce these costs without emptying your bank account? Weatherize!

According to ENERGYSTAR®, many homeowners can realize savings of 20 percent or more on heating and cooling costs by improving the sealing and insulation of their home. Fortunately, many of these improvements can be completed by yourself at a small cost. Here's how to start.

First, identify air leaks and drafts in your home that are easy to find by “feeling” around. Frames around windows and doors are common sources of air leaks and are easy to pinpoint on cooler, windy days. Note that special, low-expansion foam is recommended for sealing around doorways and windows so frames are not squeezed to a point where the window or door will not close. Other leaks may take some hunting to find, such as holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces. Check around penetration areas that go through the outside of your home to see if they are sealed. These include entrances for utilities, air conditioner line sets, dryer vents, etc. When a potential leaky spot is found, seal it up with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping. Install foam gaskets behind outlets and switch plates located on exterior walls. Replace worn door sweeps and thresholds. If you can see daylight under a door leading outside, you have air leaks!

Next, take a look at your insulation. Usually, the easiest places to check are where it makes the biggest difference, such as in the attic. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you definitely need to add more. It is recommended that attics in our area have an R-value of at least 38 or more. If your home has fiberglass batt or blown-in attic insulation, it should be at least one foot thick. If not, adding insulation is relatively easy to do and provides excellent energy savings when compared to cost. Wall cavities are more difficult to investigate, but should be insulated to have an R-value of at least 13. Adding insulation to walls can be difficult, but often contractors can blow in insulation from the exterior of your home without disturbing the finished interior.

If you have ductwork in your home that runs through unheated areas such as the attic, crawlspaces or an unconditioned basement, they should be insulated and properly sealed. Leaks are often easily identified by operating your furnace or air-conditioning system and feeling around the ductwork for any escaping air. Most hardware stores carry aluminum foil tape or HVAC mastic (a sealant) that are specifically intended for sealing these types of air leaks.

While projects described above often take some effort to complete, their return of energy cost savings pays for itself very quickly. In some cases, such as caulking around leaky windows, material costs are covered in less than a couple winter months.

For additional ideas on how you can make your home comfortable this winter, contact Southern Public Power District or visit www.southernppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for incentives to help with the cost of energy-saving home improvements.

Boost Your Savings with An Attic Insulation Incentive!

If you will be upgrading your attic insulation to save on energy costs, you can boost your savings even more with our EnergyWise Attic Insulation Incentive. Visit www.southernppd.com to learn more about this program, as well as other incentives you can apply toward your home. There are guidelines for this program so be sure to read more before you get started!

