SOUTHERN
public power district

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026
VOL 8, ISSUE 5




# NEWS MAGAZINE

## Public Power Week

We celebrate Public Power Week October 5-11.

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Quarter 2 grant recipients announced.

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## Rodeo Results

We celebrate the five SPPD linemen who competed in the 2026 Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo

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Public Power Week October 4-10, 2026

# Celebrating Public Power



*Photo by: Amanda Groff*
*Crews work to build new infrastructure for the KAAPA Ethanol plant expansion in 2025.*

Southern Public Power District takes great care in fulfilling our mission to our customers of providing highly reliable, competitively priced electricity while striving for superior customer service and innovative energy solutions. Public power means we don't feel pressured to accommodate investors with maximized profits. Decisions that impact customer rates are made locally by a board of directors elected by you the customer. This allows for public power utilities like Southern to ensure our energy policies and practices align with the needs and values of the communities we serve.

There are over 2,000 public power utilities across the United States, but Nebraska is the only state that is 100 percent publicly powered. This means that every Nebraskan receives their electricity from a local publicly owned utility.

# Second Quarter Grant Recipients Announced






*Top left: The Hampton Daycare Center receives a grant for $2,500 for playground equipment.*
*Top right: The Kearney County 4-H Council receives a grant for $2,500 to build repair the crows nest at the county fairgrounds horse arena.*
*Right: The Village of Palmer receives a grant for $2,500 for new Christmas lights for the village.*



## 2026 Second Quarter Operation Round Up Award Recipients

| | |
|---|---|
| **Amateur Radio Association**<br>*Upgrade repeater in Heartwell* | **$1,800** |
| **Village of Kenesaw**<br>*Tables and chairs for auditorium* | **$2,500** |
| **Village of Palmer**<br>*New village Christmas lights* | **$2,500** |
| **Central City Youth Baseball**<br>*Pitching machine* | **$1,500** |
| **Hampton Daycare Center**<br>*Playground equipment* | **$2,500** |
| **Hampton Legion Ball Program #141**<br>*Upgrade ballfield facilities* | **$2,500** |
| **Village of Funk**<br>*Basketball hoop/backboard, tennis net/poles* | **$1,108** |
| **River of Life Church**<br>*Playground equipment, mulch and boarders* | **$1,000** |
| **Wilcox Area Food Pantry**<br>*Facility repairs* | **$2,500** |
| **City of Wood River**<br>*Legacy Station Senior Center furnishings* | **$2,500** |
| **Kearney County 4-H Council**<br>*Repair crows nest in Horse Arena* | **$2,500** |
| **Northwest Education Foundation**<br>*Carpet and stools for first grade classrooms.* | **$900** |

This quarter the Operation Round Up board awarded grants to 12 community organizations for a total of $23,808.

Applications for the third quarter of 2026 are due September 30 and can be found by visiting www.southernpd.com/roundup or by contacting Amanda Groff at Southern Public Power District.

These grants are made possible by Southern customers that round up their bills to the nearest dollar each month. Thank you to everyone that participates in Operation Round Up!

# Nebraska Linewor

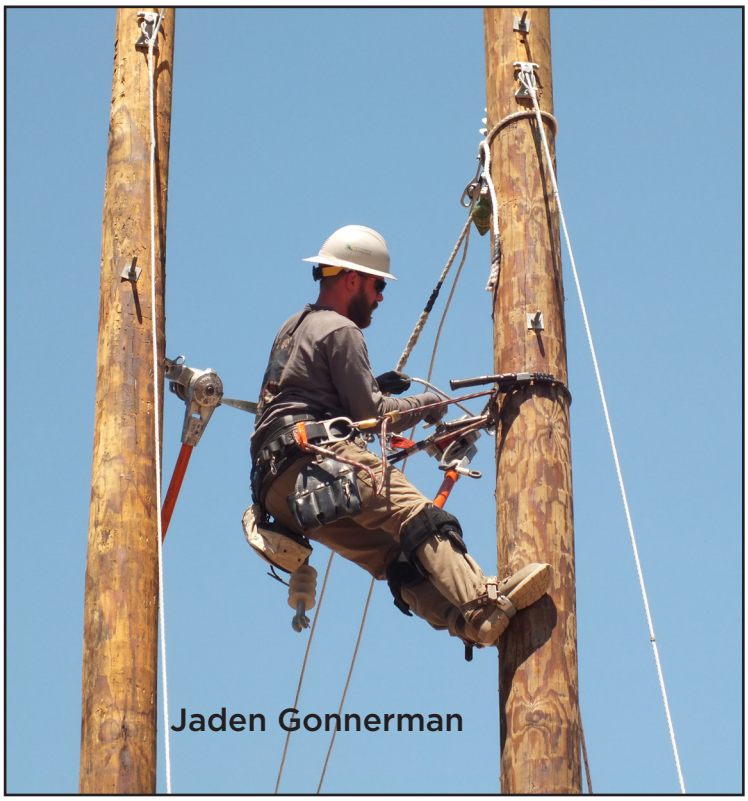


Alex Barwick





Kaleb Trumble



Jaden Gonnerman

# ker Rodeo Results


Trevor Kluck


Arik Ackerman

Southern Public Power District had three apprentice linemen and two journeyman linemen represent them at this year's Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo in Broken Bow. Trevor Kluck and Jaden Gonnerman competed as a Journeyman Team while Arik Ackerman, Alex Barwick and Kaleb Trumble competed individually in the Apprentice competition.

Ackerman placed 3rd in the Hurtman Rescue.

Congratulations to all of our participants!

## SPPD Rodeo Results

***Apprentice Competition***
Written Test
10th Place - Alex Barwick

Hurtman Rescue
3rd Place - Arik Ackerman
7th Place - Alex Barwick

Neutral Tie
5th Place - Alex Barwick

Obstacle Course
6th Place - Alex Barwick

Overall
4th Place - Alex Barwick
10th Place - Arik Ackerman

***Journeyman Team Competition***
Hurtman Rescue
7th place Jaden Gonnerman/Trevor Kluck

Alley Arm
8th Place Jaden Gonnerman/Trevor Kluck

Transformer
5th place Jaden Gonnerman/Trevor Kluck

Single Phase Transfer
7th Place - Jaden Gonnerman/Trevor Kluck

Overall
5th Place - Jaden Gonnerman/Trevor Kluck

*Trevor and Jaden had perfect scores on every event. Their placing in each event came down to times to complete the events.*




# Youth Energy Leadership Camp

SPPD was able to send two participants to the NREA's Youth Energy Leadership Camp this year during the week of July 20-24. Samuel Kindschuh, of Axtell and Mason Johnson, of Minden, represented Southern at camp. During camp students learned about all aspects of public power, being a lineman, and leadership. They also got to tour Gerald Gentleman Station and Kingsley Hydroplant. Fyn Fasbender, of Central City, returned again this year representing Southern as a junior counselor.



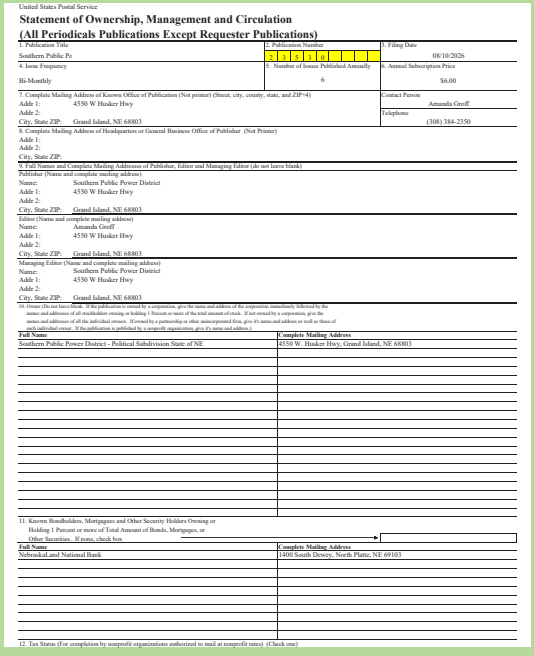
# Harvest Safety



As farming season begins to get underway please take time to remember the following tips for ensuring a safe harvest.

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment, in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized.
- In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment

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United States Postal Service

**Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation**

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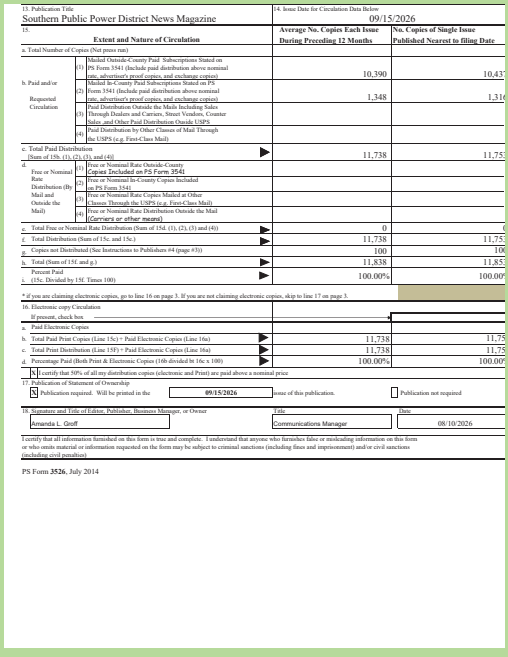
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PS Form **3526**, July 2014

## October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. We recommend the use of a strong password for your SmartHub account, and all of your password-protected financial accounts. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

### DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

### DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.



# Cheesy Garlic Chicken Wraps

YIELD: 4 Servings, Prep Time: 15 min., Cook Time: 15 min. Total Time: 30 min.



***Ingredients:***

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 1 lb)
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 4 large flour tortillas
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella and cheddar cheese blend
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 c. diced bell peppers (mixed red and yellow)
- 1 c fresh spinach or lettuce
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp dried oregano or basil

***Instructions:***

1. Dice the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Heat olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Add chicken and sauté until golden brown and coooked through (about 7-10 minutes).
2. Stir in minced garlic and italian herbs; cook until fragrant ( about 2 minutes).
3. Add diced bell peppers; sauté until softened (3-5 minutes). Season with salt and pepper.
4. Lay each tortilla flat, spoon the chicken mixture onto each top with cheese, then wrap tightly.
5. In a skillet over medium heat, cook each wrap seam-side down until golden brown (2-3 minutes per side).

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https://myrecipespace.com/cheesy-garlic-chicken-wraps-5-minute-flavor-explosion/#:~:text=4%20boneless%2C%20skinless%20chicken%20breasts%20(about%201%20lb)&text=4%20cloves%20fresh%20garlic%2C%20minced&text=Dice%20the%20chicken%20into%20bite-sized%20pieces&text=Stir%20in%20minced%20garlic%20and%20Italian%20herbs%3B%20cook%20until%20fragrant%20(about%202%20minutes)