



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# RURAL ELECTRIC

# NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

## Manager's Message

### *A Balanced Fuel Mix Promotes Power Reliability* by Darick Eisenbraun



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July 4th  
Independence Day

July 16th–17th  
Annual Meeting

HPP will be closed  
Monday, July 5th  
in observance of  
Independence Day.

Celebrate safely!

As I've noted before in my past columns, the energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as regional consumer demand for more renewable energy sources grows, and innovation and technology continue to advance exponentially. You're likely witnessing this energy evolution first-hand.

In driving across the region, you may have noticed fields of wind turbines, along with an increase in solar panels on your neighbors' roofs. Maybe you've heard about the impending changes in the transportation sector with most major vehicle companies announcing plans to offer more electric vehicles at more affordable prices.

Consumer interest in renewable energy is strong and growing. In addition, national studies indicate that consumers have an expectation that companies operate in an ethical and responsible manner--including when it comes to the environment.

At High Plains Power, we have always put the good of our community first. While our primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to our members, we are more than an electricity provider. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and to serve the long-term interests of our community. We feel we're doing both by investing in economic renewable energy sources along with operating our thermal power plants.

Renewable energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind, and hydro power have been around for decades. However, the recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to sharp decreases in cost, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Tri-

State our generation and transmission provider has been able to adjust our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables. Today, roughly 30% of our power purchases are comprised of renewable energy sources, the majority of which is wind and hydro.

However, to borrow a nautical analogy, it takes a long time to turn the direction of a large ship--and changing the energy mix we use to power homes and businesses doesn't happen overnight nor should it. While renewable energy use is increasing, we will still depend on traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing both day and night to your home. After all, solar and wind energy are referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges. That's why there is real value in maintaining a balanced mixture of fuel types to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

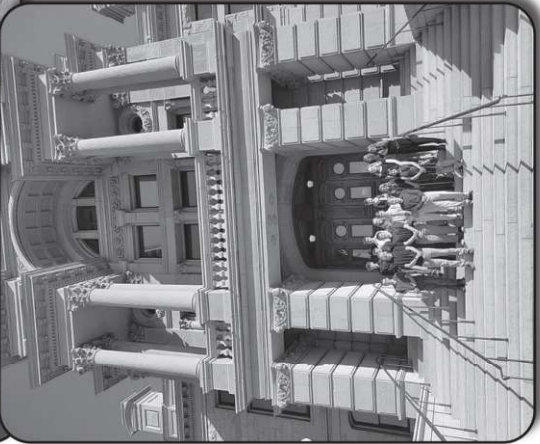
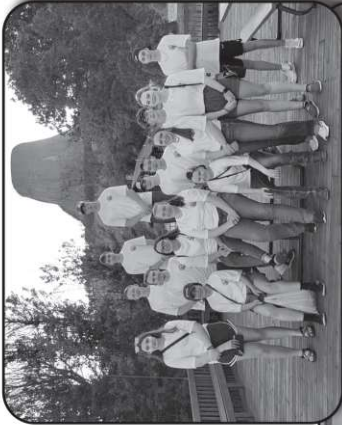
As the energy industry continues to evolve, High Plains Power is striving to remain reliable and will continue to take advantage of technology advances and market opportunities as they become available. This means High Plains Power will leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

Albert Einstein once observed that, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." In order for High Plains Power to meet the growing regional demand for renewable energy *and* ensure the reliability of our power supply, we must constantly make operational adjustments as we strive for balance and a bright future for our members.



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# 2021 Youth Tour of Wyoming

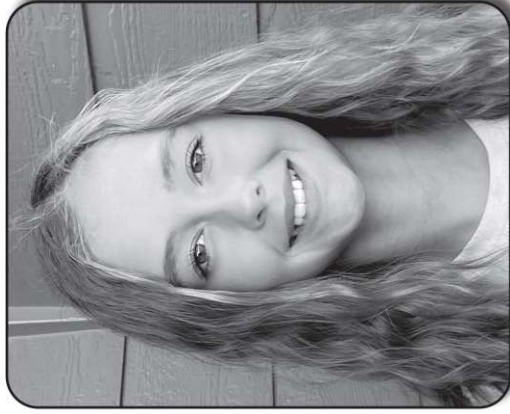


Each year Wyoming Rural Electric sponsors a Youth Tour to Washington DC. Due to COVID the trip to Washington was not able to take place so WREA decided to do something a little different this year. Students from all over the state participated in a Wyoming Youth Tour spanning 6 days and covering a large part of the state. The tour began on June 14th in Cheyenne where the students met with Governor Gordon and had a tour of the Capitol. They then met with Milt Gierger and learned about the Cooperative Business Model through the University of Wyoming, followed by a tour of the Laramie River Station. Over the next 5 days the students would visit places like the Dry Fork Mine in Gillette, Devil's Tower, the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Yellowstone National Park, and a hydro facility in western Wyoming. Along the way they had dinner with Senator Driskill, and visited with many Wyoming Co-op board directors and employees throughout the state. They finished up their tour on June 19th when they returned to Cheyenne.

# CONGRATULATIONS ABBY!!

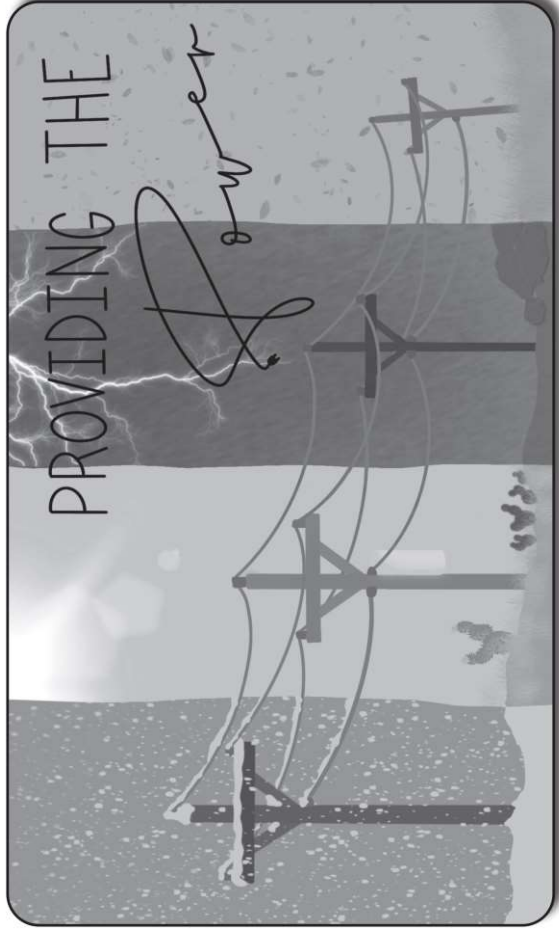
In May we posted a Youth Cover Art Contest on our Facebook page. The contest was for youth ages 18 and younger and the theme was "Providing the Power". We were looking for original artwork, in any medium except photography, from the youth in our communities. This year's winner was Abby Fincher, and her winning piece will be used as the cover art on our Annual Meeting materials. Her artwork will be on the Annual Meeting Notice that gets mailed to every High Plains Power member and on the cover of the program for the annual meeting that will be given out the day of the meeting. Abby's artwork can be found on our Facebook page, and will also be on display at the annual meeting and in the High Plains Power office in Riverton.

Abby is 11 and loves to draw and create. She is an excellent student and is very active as a competitive Cross Country and Track athlete, and in her young women's group at her church.



*Abby Fincher*

Abby's winning artwork. Great job Abby!





Journeyman Lineman Nick Vermeire does a safety demo for the elementary school in Dubois.



Vehicle vs power pole between Ethete and Ft. Washakie.



Dubois Journeyman Lineman Eon Rose does pole top rescue at the May safety meeting.

High Plains Power

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is an official publication of High Plains Power, Inc., PO Box 713, Riverton, WY 82501.

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**General Manager**  
Darick Eisenbraun

This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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