

Perennial Magazine Coming Soon!

by Jamey Pankoke

I am pleased to announce that we will soon be launching a new look to our customer newsletter. Since 1994 we have been sending you our newsletter inside the Rural Electric Nebraskan magazine.

Off and on over the last few years we have considered making a change to the method in how we communicate with you. This no doubt led to our staff and board of directors identifying the goal of developing and implementing an external communications plan, when they participated in a strategic planning session last year. We finally concluded that it was time for a newsletter makeover.

After considering several options, we decided that the most valuable way to communicate with you in print form would be by creating our own magazine. So that is what we will be doing. Sometime towards the end of this year you will find in your mail an 8-page color magazine from Perennial. It will continue to be published bi-monthly, just as our newsletter is today.

This new format will allow us to control the entire content of the publication that we send you, and it will provide us considerably more space than what we have in this newsletter. This means that we will be able to offer you more timely and relevant information about the district and the electric industry. It also means that we will have room for more featured articles on our employees,



*Jamey Pankoke
General Manager*

customers and events. Of course, we also believe that you will find that our magazine will have a much cleaner and modern look, and be more enjoyable to read than our current newsletter.

Through comments that we have taken on occasion, we realize that some customers have appreciated receiving the Rural Electric Nebraskan magazine. Although we will stop using that magazine as a vehicle for our customer newsletter, we certainly want it to be available to folks that would like to

continue to read it. The good news is the Rural Electric Nebraskan magazine will be obtainable on a subscription basis. We will also make it accessible on-line for those that prefer an electronic version.

The new Perennial magazine will only partially address our strategic goal of developing and implementing an external communications plan. Even an old fuddy-duddy like me that still likes paper understands that publishing newsletters and magazines is a one-way street. We send it out and you either read it or ignore it. We don't know for sure which it is. Of course, with social media communication flows both ways, responses can be immediate, and our shared messages can reach hundreds. So evaluating and improving our electronic forms of communication will also be necessary for us to meet our goal. In the meantime, we hope that you'll find that our new magazine provides value and a pleasure reading.

Youth Tour

Jillian (J.J.) Mertz of McCool Junction recently participated in the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour. J.J. represented Perennial Public Power District on the seven day tour in Washington, D.C. with twenty-five other students from across rural Nebraska.

This all-expense paid trip gives participants an opportunity to learn first-hand about our nation's history and the pressing issues facing the energy industry. In addition, the experience fosters student's appreciation for the democratic process, builds leadership skills, and educates the students about the role rural electric systems have in the national economy.

While on Youth Tour, J.J. attended the Nebraska breakfast with the entire Nebraska congressional delegation and had private meetings with their representatives. James Dukesherer, Youth Tour Director, stated: "Most of the rural students that we take on the Youth Tour have never been to Washington, D.C. and would not have had an opportunity like this if not for the NREA Youth Tour program and the sponsorship of the participating public power districts and electric cooperatives. Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for these students to see first-hand our democratic government in action while at the same time visiting some of our Nation's most historic sites."

To be considered for Youth Tour, students must first attend the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp in Halsey, NE, a week long leadership program for rural youth. J.J. attended camp last year in Halsey and is the daughter of Roger and Mindy Mertz.



Jilian (J.J.) Mertz

Climb the Rungs of Safety When Using a Ladder

Whether cleaning gutters, or reaching high to hang a photo just out of arm's length, ladders are a necessity for home improvement. For projects large and small, ladders provide the extra height to complete tasks that are otherwise out of reach. However, when climbing a ladder, use caution to avoid accidents and electrical injuries.

In 2016, ladder accidents ranked among the top ten causes of injury cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Although falls are most common, increased height can also increase the risk of electrical accidents, injuries and death. Perennial urges everyone to keep themselves and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines and electrical equipment.

In order to climb safely, take your time to select the optimal ladder and survey the area for electrical hazards. Here are some tips from Safe Electricity to help enhance your electrical safety:

- Opt for a fiberglass, rather than a wood or aluminum ladder when working near electricity. Although fiberglass is less durable and heavier than other materials, when clean and dry, fiberglass ladders are less conductive.
- Remember that no ladder is safe around electricity.
- Before each use, inspect the ladder, paying attention to cracks or defects. Never use a damaged ladder, or one coated with foreign matter such as dirt or grease. This can provide a path for electrical currents.
- Make sure that you are using the correct size ladder for the job, especially when completing tasks outside the home.
- Always look overhead to make sure that you will not make contact with any overhead power lines, building electrical service connections or other electrical equipment. Keep yourself, the ladder, and all tools at least 10 feet from any energized equipment.

The most important factor of ladder safety is keeping focused. Take time to remain stable on the ladder and avoid sudden movements. Never climb a ladder if you are dizzy or tired. In order to avoid falls, keep at least three points of contact with the ladder. Keep your body in the middle of the ladder and face inward when climbing. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Total Solar Eclipse Coming To Nebraska

On August 21, 2017, Nebraska will be in the path of totality for the first total solar eclipse to be visible in the contiguous United States since 1979. After the eclipse this year, the next total eclipse will be October 14, 2023. It will be visible from Northern California to Florida.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth completely blocking the sun. If you are inside the shaded area on the map below, you will be able to see the moon completely block the sun, but the duration of the eclipse will be longer the closer you are to the middle. The rest of Nebraska will have a partial eclipse. The total eclipse will only be a few minutes long at best. For example, according to NASA, the duration of totality for York will only be 2 minutes and 19 seconds. While Geneva will have a duration of totality for 2 minutes and 34 seconds.

While looking directly at the sun is unsafe, you can look at it safely during the short duration of totality. Experts recommend getting a pair of eclipse glasses so you can safely watch the whole eclipse and not risk damage to your eyes.

An alternative method for viewing the eclipse safely is by using pinhole projection. To use the pin

hole projection method you will need 2 pieces of stiff white paper and a pin. You will use the pin to punch a hole in one piece of paper. While holding the piece with the hole above it, move the solid piece of paper around until the image looks best.

If you decide you'd rather use welding glass, instead of eclipse glasses or the pinhole method, you will need to have a darkness of at least #14. A welding glass that allows you to see the landscape is not safe.

On NASA's website <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/nasas-eyes> you can preview what the eclipse will look like for your location to help you find the best place to watch the eclipse. There are several places in our service area that are hosting viewing events for the eclipse, some locations will provide glasses but others will not, so make sure you know ahead of time if you need to bring your own glasses.

Additionally, Bill Nye, the science guy, will be joining park rangers and science educators at the Beatrice Homestead National Monument of America for a three-day festival that focuses on the eclipse. He will be present to welcome visitors to Homestead and promote a new Junior Ranger Eclipse booklet.

With so many viewing options available, we hope you get a chance to safely view this historic event.

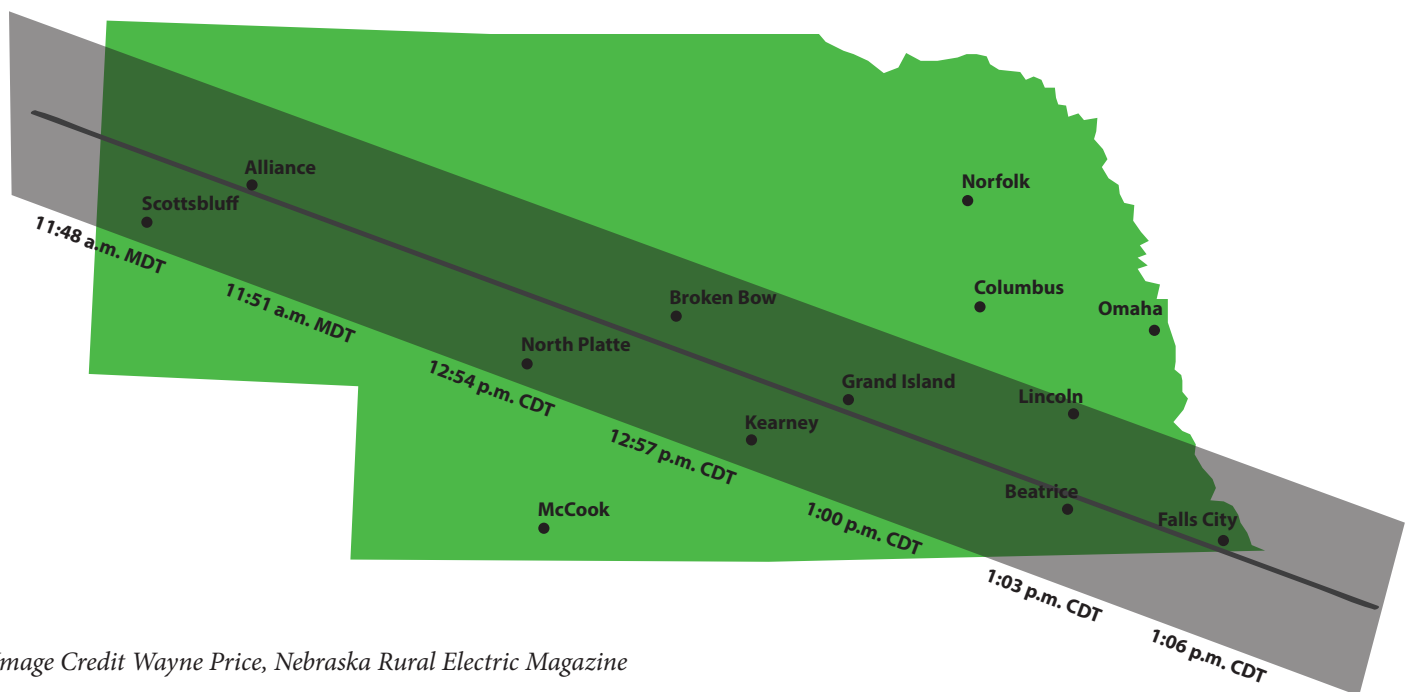


Image Credit Wayne Price, Nebraska Rural Electric Magazine

Operations Report

Distribution Projects:

Along with new services and upgrades, Perennial crews constructed 1.5 miles of a 3 phase distribution line for the new City of York Water Reclamation Facility. Work is also being scheduled to upgrade a half mile of conductor in the Henderson area, two miles in the Grafton area, and a half mile north of Bradshaw. They will continue with the pole replacement program in York County. Crews will continue to clear right of way in the villages that Perennial serves as well as rural areas. Crowl Tree Service is expected to work on tree trimming in the southwest part of Fillmore County.

Reminder: If you are considering a new service whether it is a house, business, irrigation service, etc. please keep Perennial in mind when considering your project. It is very helpful if we are involved from the onset to plan the work and to have time to order special materials that may be needed to complete your project.

Efficiency Tip

Energy

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense. The recommended thermostat setting in the summer is 78 degrees.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Community Calendar

~August 3-August 6~

York County Fair

~August 12~

Tractor, Engine & Auto Show

Wessels Living History Farm

~June 7~

Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park

Russia to Henderson Journey Kid's Camp

~August 21~

Total Solar Eclipse

~August 25 - September 4~

Nebraska State Fair - Public Power Booth

~August 31~

Milligan Cruise Night

~September 7- 10~

YorkFest Celebration

~September 12 - September 14~

Husker Harvest Days - Public Power Booth

Hot Line Demo

~September 15 - September 17~

McCool Junction Mustang Round Up

What's a Watt?



A watt is a unit of power. One watt is defined as the energy consumption rate of one joule per second. It is also the current flow of one ampere with the voltage of one volt.

Perennial's Office will be closed September 4, 2017 in observance of Labor Day. Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!

402-362-3355
800-289-0288
402-362-3357- Outages

Perennial Public Power District
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York, NE 68467

Office Hours
7:30 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.
Monday ~ Friday