

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

APRIL 2022



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 11.

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

You've likely noticed Highline Electric Association's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our service territory. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job; it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work long hours outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker requires more than 8,000 hours of on-the-job training (over four years) in addition to course work that includes several thousand pages of material, followed by the successful completion of over 40 tests? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Highline's

lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in northeast Colorado and southwest Nebraska, Highline has 28 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 5,170 miles of power line across 11 counties and approximately 3,700 square miles. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

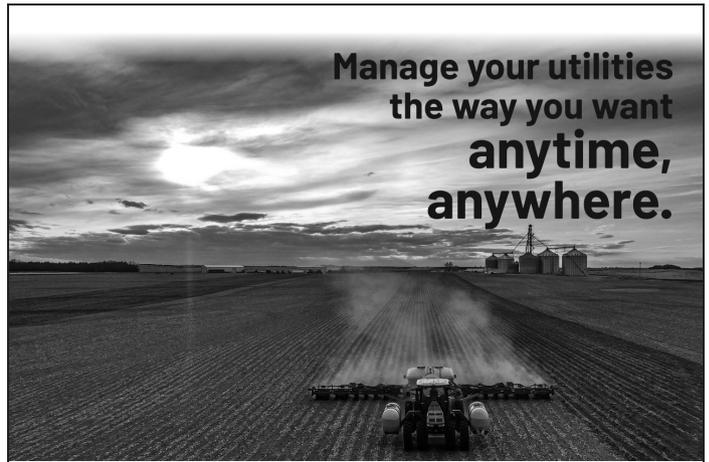
Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



HEA Wins Statewide Magazine Awards

In February, the Colorado Rural Electric Association recognized Highline Electric Association's *Colorado Country Life* content with three statewide magazine awards. HEA General Manager Dennis Herman (left) won the second place prize for best explanation of an industry situation and second place for best safety article. Member Services Specialist Jessie Heath (right) won second place for the best newsletter photo.



Manage your utilities
the way you want
**anytime,
anywhere.**

Manage your Highline Electric Association account *the way you want* with the **NEW Mobile Customer Access.**

- Online Bill Payments
- Convenient and Secure
- Easy to Use, No Contact
- Easy Account Management Tools
- View Usage
- View Statement
- View Past Payments
- Sign Up for Notifications
 - Statement Available
 - Payment Due Soon
 - Payment Received
 - Credit Card about to Expire

HEA's current app will be unavailable after May 2.

Call our office at (970) 854-2236

 Available on iOS and Android. Search for Highline Electric in your app store. After installing the app, create your account or login with your existing online Highline credentials.

 Download on the App Store



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at

least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.



CONTROLLED BURN AWARENESS

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

Even with the best-laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn — planning in advance can decrease those chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact Highline Electric Association at 970-854-2236.



LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.



Thinking About Energy-Efficiency Improvements?

Save energy. Save dollars.

Investing in energy-efficiency improvements in your home or office can save energy and thus lower your utility bills. It's a win-win.

To help you invest in energy-efficiency projects, Highline Electric Association offers on-bill financing. Apply for a low-interest loan to finance your energy-efficiency projects. Repay that loan monthly over time on your HEA electric bill.

Visit hea.coop or call 800-816-2236 to learn more.



HEA Offices Closed April 15 for Good Friday



ATTENTION LOAD CONTROL PARTICIPANTS

Irrigators are reminded that if they are signed up for load control for the 2022 season, it starts in May. Please be aware of which option you signed up for. Control dates for all options include May 12–May 31, June 21–June 30 and September 1–September 10. If you chose 1A or 2A, this includes one day per week in July and August as well as the dates already mentioned. If you chose option 3, this will only be one day per week in July and August.

ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

April 15 is the deadline to retire an irrigation service to avoid paying the annual minimum.



▲ The Grill at River City's popular Bacon-Avocado-Swiss burger.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS SPOTLIGHT: THE GRILL AT RIVER CITY

116 W. Main Street, Sterling | 970-526-6969 | thegrillrc.com

The Grill at River City is a locally-owned restaurant and sports bar. Be sure to stop in and try a hand-cut steak, beer battered shrimp, onion rings and many other items that are made from scratch daily with fresh ingredients.

Highline Electric Association consumer-members:

**Use your Co-op Connections card and get
10% off your entire ticket when you dine at
The Grill at River City.**

We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty that trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular vegetation management

If you see us in the community removing or trimming trees, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs
- Vegetation management improves service reliability for you, the consumer-members we serve.



PESTICIDE SAFETY!

Please protect our employees

Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk.

Please consider the following:

- If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.
- Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.
- If calling during an outage, please notify Highline if the field was sprayed.
- The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.



Congratulations to the following employees who observe an employment anniversary in April:

Jeff Poe	18	Carson Ebke	6
Eric Anderson	11	Josh Martin	5
Matt McCabe	7		

