

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



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ESSAY, SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

If you could have dinner with one prominent Washington, D.C., figure, whether from the present or the past, who would that person be and why? Rosa Parks, Theodore Roosevelt, Susan B. Anthony, or Henry Clay? What would you ask them?

One student wanted to visit with Bill Nye the Science Guy. He would like to ask what inspired him to pursue his different career ventures and how he can present such complex ideas in a way that everyone can understand. Another student would like to meet with Ruth Bader Ginsburg and ask her how she managed to stay so strong in the face of adversity.

All of the essays were very interesting; however, the scholarship committee chose Natalie Foxley as the 2024 SECO Scholarship winner.

Natalie chose Abraham Lincoln. She stated that she would ask President Lincoln what his thoughts and feelings were leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation. Natalie is impressed with his opinions on keeping people



Natalie Foxley

connected so that you don't have war within your country. She would like to ask him how his family felt about what he was doing to abolish slavery. "I find his family's opinions important because they were his supporters," Natalie said. She states that "America wouldn't be how it is today without the many things that Lincoln has done."

Natalie is the daughter of Lisa Borchgrevink and Nathan Foxley. Natalie plans to attend Montana State University in Billings.

Basin Electric Scholarship

Each year the applicants for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship are asked what challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years, and how they think those chal-



Tylee Loehding

lenges should be addressed.

This year Tylee Loehding's essay caught the attention of our scholarship committee. Tylee's concern for rural electric cooperatives

is maintenance and upkeep of expensive infrastructure. She stated that "Montana can easily have multiple storms, blizzards and powerful winds, all within a few months of each other. Weather and other factors weaken any tool or infrastructure that is outdoors."

Tylee reminds us that keeping our infrastructure in good condition will help our members feel more secure and safe during times of outages. She will use the \$1,000 scholarship to help continue her education at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. Tylee is the daughter of Travis and Corey Loehding. RM



2024
SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH

LOOK OUT AND LOOK UP

Be careful while working, playing around powerlines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead powerlines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a powerline, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead powerlines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the powerlines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of powerlines.

Be mindful of overhead powerlines when completing the following tasks:

Home maintenance

Always be aware of the location of powerlines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard work

- When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead powerlines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:
 - Do not trim trees near powerlines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
 - Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Farming

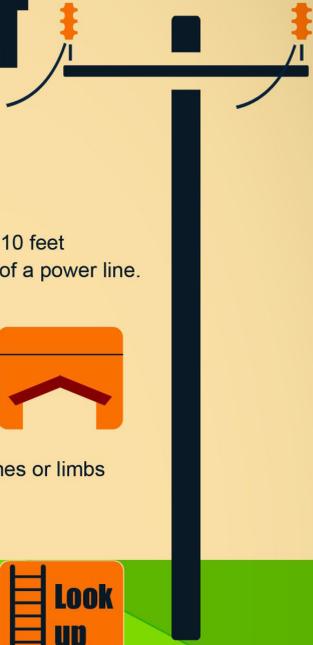
Review powerline locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

At work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES



10'

Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.



Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.

Look up

811

Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.

Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.



Other reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged powerline. Warn others to stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never climb trees near powerlines. Even if the powerlines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch. RM