

Copper Valley

# Ruralite

AUGUST 2019

Shades of Violet, by  
photo contest winner  
Dahlia O'Neil.



## The Clock is Ticking For Community Foundation Funding

It is Community Foundation Contribution Season time and nonprofit program requests will be accepted until August 22.

The Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes and sponsors the community support activities of CVEA, allowing CVEA to do more for the people it serves.

The mission of the Foundation is “to provide scholarships for students and make contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities.”

The Foundation’s two flagship programs are the Educational Scholarship Program and the Youth Leadership Program. However, each year the Foundation also makes contributions to local nonprofit organizations to support new or expanding projects and programs.

Since 2008 the Community Foundation has provided over \$77,500 to roughly 15 worthwhile nonprofit organizations.

In 2019, the Foundation has over \$16,000 available for contributions; the goal of this funding is to help local nonprofits make an even greater impact in

our communities.

The Contribution Season is open July through August each year, and is the ONLY time the Foundation will accept requests for funding.

If your organization is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization looking for funding for new or expanding projects or programs within the next 12 months, please review the Contribution Guidelines to determine eligibility, and fill out the Contribution Request Form in its entirety. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

The deadline to submit all contribution requests for funding is Thursday, August 22, 2019, as indicated on the CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Request Form. The form is available at either CVEA office and at [cvea.org/community](http://cvea.org/community) support.

Please note that the Foundation’s contribution process and guidelines vary from CVEA’s. CVEA has a small community support program that will continue to fund small cash (up to \$500) and in-kind donations for events and activities throughout the year. The requirements for the CVEA program



are different and separate from the Foundation and can also be found on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

Please ensure your organization meets the specific guidelines for Foundation funding and the correct application is submitted. If unsure where a request is best suited, please contact the Cooperative for assistance.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a volunteer committee in September, awards will be approved by the Board of Directors in October, and checks will be distributed in November/December.

The Foundation is looking for interested members to serve on the Contributions Committee. If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, this committee is for you.

Committee members are responsible for reviewing and scoring all nonprofit contribution requests and making funding recommendations to the Board. If you are interested, plan on participation in late September and October; attendance at 2-3 meetings is required. In all, commitment is estimated at 15 hours.

If you have questions, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org). ■



Opposite, last December Sharon Scheidt of CVEA presented a check to the Stepping Stones Learning Center, of Valdez, to help fund a reading corner and materials for a large motor center

Above, Jaime Matthews of CVEA presenting a check to representatives of the Copper River Watershed to fund aquatic ecology field trips for students in the Copper Basin

## CVEA Guidelines

- It is CVEA's goal to provide the maximum benefit to the greatest number of members in the communities we serve; due to the large number of requests received, we regret being unable to fulfill all requests
- Requests are evaluated and funded based on the amount of funds available and how well the request meets CVEA's requirements
- CVEA looks for events/activities that benefit a large portion of the communities we serve
- CVEA limits donations to a maximum of \$500
- CVEA does not donate or discount products or services that are provided to all members in the Tariff
- CVEA does not donate funds to individuals
- Due to the large number of sports teams in our service area, CVEA does not fund sports teams or sporting activities unless there is a district-wide benefit

## CVEA Community Foundation Guidelines

- Education and youth programs are often the biggest recipients of Foundation funds
- The Foundation does not fund organizational operating costs
- The Foundation looks to contribute to new programs/projects or the expansion of existing programs/projects
- The Foundation will evaluate the amount of each request based on the merits of the application; an interview or demonstration may be required

### For either CVEA or the CVEA Community Foundation, nonprofits MUST meet the following minimum requirements:

- The organization must be a nonprofit organization
- The organization must benefit the public welfare or have a charitable, educational, or scientific benefit to the membership
- The organization's program or event must provide broad CVEA membership benefit
- The organization must support members in the CVEA service area

### The following are not eligible for assistance:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations
- Political organizations

# Help Your Child Succeed

*Good reading skills are essential for success in school*

Parents want their children to grow up to become well-adjusted, happy and successful adults. Most parents know that for their children to be successful, they need a good education.

Studies show children do better in school if their parents are involved in their education. Although small children are inquisitive and eager to learn, they need encouragement and reinforcement to start them off and keep them going in the right direction.

Good reading skills are necessary for success in school. Here are some tips to help your child develop good study habits and a lifetime love of learning.

- Start early by instilling a love for learning. Read to preschool children every day. It arouses their natural curiosity about the world around them and encourages them to want to learn to read for themselves.

- Provide books and supplies. Give your children the tools they need to improve their reading and to do projects.

- Work out a schedule. Decide how much time should be set aside for homework and establish a routine.

- Help your children get organized. Using a calendar gives students a sense of accomplishment.

- Designate a quiet, comfortable place for studying. Encourage youngsters to study in the same place every day, away from distractions.

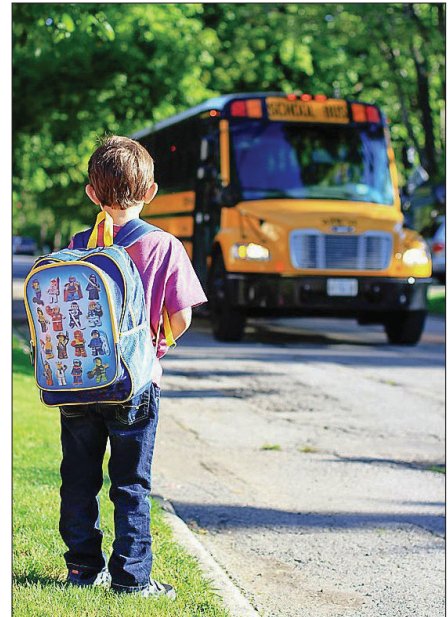
- Provide reinforcement. Praise your children for working hard and completing assignments.

- Talk with your children about what is going on in the world around them. Encourage new ideas and interests.

- Set an example for them. Parents are, after all, the most important teachers in a child's life. ■



Provide a quiet, comfortable place for your child to do homework each day to help instill good study habits.



## Watch for Kids as They Head Back to School

On average, 26 children in the United States are killed every year while getting on or off a school bus, or while waiting at the bus stop.

To avoid such tragedies, drivers are reminded to:

- ▶ Carefully back out of driveways. Watch for children walking to the bus stop.
- ▶ Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street and playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark.
- ▶ Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- ▶ Obey the law. Yellow flashing lights on a bus mean motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights mean motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus starts moving again. Unless there is a median, oncoming traffic also must stop.

# Don't Make a Deadly Mistake

By Michael Rovito

The unthinkable has happened: an accident occurs and your car hits a utility pole. You are not injured, but now an energized power line lies across your car. Your life now hangs in the balance.

What should you do?

This is what Don Maynor, loss control specialist at ARECA Insurance Exchange, spends some of his time thinking about. AIE is an Alaska-based commercial insurer that provides coverage to nonprofit electric utilities in the state.

Don has more than a decade of experience focusing on electric utility safety, spending 16 years with Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks. Even though Don's job was to ensure the safety of GVEA's employees, his role naturally led him to address consumer safety as well.

In the scenario above, the reflex reaction of the car occupants might be to get out of the vehicle and run for safety, but this can be the most dangerous move.

According to Don, if a power line falls on your car—assume it is energized—stay in the vehicle and call for help. While you are seated in the car, the electricity from the downed line is following a path to the ground that runs through the car but around the occupant. Dialing 911 is the best course of action, since first responders will contact the electric utility to have the line deenergized.

But staying in the vehicle might not be an option, especially if it is on fire and the risk of injury or death from the fire becomes too great. If this happens, Don advises jumping from the car, then shuffling your feet until you are 30 to 40 feet away. Touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time makes you the easiest path for electricity, according to Don.

“Shuffling for this purpose



means not lifting your foot off the ground, with the heel of your foot never going past the toes of your other foot,” Don says.

Since the electricity coursing through the ground will dissipate the farther you get from the power line, if you walk normally and step from one voltage level to another, you could be electrocuted.

Danger from downed power lines also exists to those not in vehicles. Strong winds, earthquakes and other disasters can bring down power lines, strewing them on the ground like high-voltage snakes. This is where Don says bystanders must protect themselves, but also help protect others.

“If in a public area where someone could get into lines you should stay and warn others of the hazard,” Don says. “Call 911 to help with crowd control and they will call the electric company. You should also call the electric utility so you can give them specific information that will help evaluate the hazard.”

Other, less lethal hazards come with electrification. Home electronics and some appliances can be damaged if a surge is introduced in the power lines from a

lightning strike, or two wires touching from snow unloading, trees falling, or in high wind scenarios.

If this happens, the voltage traveling into a home can rapidly spike, potentially causing electronics to overload with power and become damaged or inoperable. To guard against this, Don recommends using power strips and turning them off during an outage, if you can. Power strips are designed to absorb electricity fluctuations. The price of a strip is cheap insurance for expensive electronics such as a television or computer.

When the power does go out, a dedicated crew of men and women head into the elements to get electric service on again. Line work is a hazardous profession, but there are steps community members can take to help make the job safer.

Don says it's important to never use utility poles for personal use.

“Don't attach lights, antennas or signs,” he says. “It's dangerous for you and the lineman who has to climb the pole.”

Community members can also help their local electric cooperative address problem trees and other hazards that could impact reliable electric service.

“It's good to report trees out of the right-of-way that are leaning toward distribution lines so they can be removed before they cause an outage,” Don says. “If you see anything that you're not sure of, feel free to contact your local electric company and let them decide if they need to check it out.”

Electric co-op employees who focus on safety often say everyone who works at the cooperative should be a safety professional. The same is true for consumers. Co-ops are member-owned and governed, and those same members can take part in ensuring safety both for themselves, their families and fellow community members. ■

## Drone Tech Provides Valuable Solutions for Utility Industry

By Ethan E. Rocke

At West Oregon Electric Cooperative in Vernonia, Oregon, drones are making quick work of jobs that once took days to complete.

Like many rural electric utilities, a lot of West Oregon's lines run through rugged terrain with large trees and thick brush. Inspecting those lines has traditionally presented a major logistical challenge to crews. Enter unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones.

"When we used to inspect rights-of-way the old-fashioned way, we'd have to send three or four guys to trample through the brush for 4 or 5 miles," says WOEC Operations Manager Don Rose. "That job could sometimes take up to six guys two days to complete. Now we send two guys to fly a drone, and the entire inspection takes about an hour and a half. The video quality we get is exceptional, so we get all the information we need from the drone."

West Oregon's drone program is a little more than a year old, and Don says its benefits have made the cooperative's investment in the technology, training and certification process well worth it.

Launching a drone program responsibly requires much more than the initial investment in one or more drones. As drone applications and business uses have exploded in recent years, the Federal Aviation Administration has tightened regulation of the industry.

FAA regulations require anyone using drones for business to be certified UAS pilots, and individuals and businesses must carry liability insurance for their drone operations.

"When we first started out, there was a

lot less regulation," Don says.

West Oregon turned to General Pacific's Northwest Drone Academy to get five of their linemen certified as Part 107 pilots.

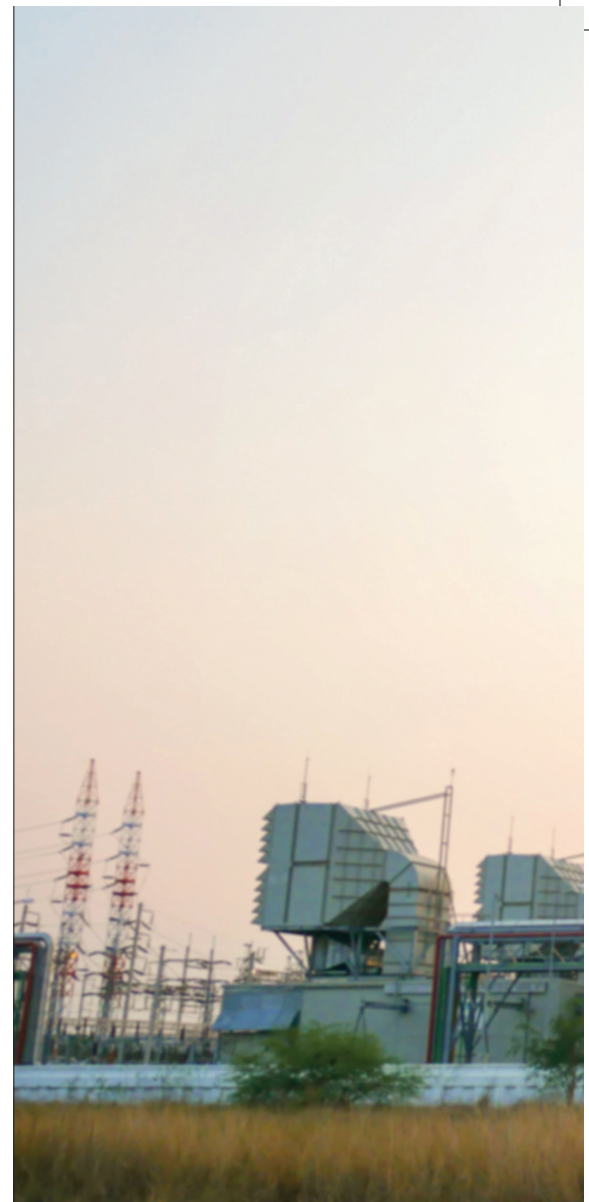
Part 107 refers to the section of the U.S. code of federal regulations that governs drone use. General Pacific offers a two-day Part 107 Certification Class that culminates with taking the Part 107 exam. The cost for non-local students is \$1,200 and includes the cost of meals during class time, lodging and the \$150 testing fee. Local students who don't require lodging pay \$900.

Classroom training is not required to pass the exam. Many people opt to prepare on their own, using any of the myriad free or cheap resources available online. A pdf of the FAA's "Remote Pilot—Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Study Guide" is easily accessible with a quick google search, and many videos on Part 107 preparation are available on YouTube.

Utilities that aren't ready to invest in an in-house drone program also have the option of contracting drone work out. For certain specialized needs, hiring professionals is often the better option.

Timberland Helicopters in Ashland, Oregon, has provided aerial solutions to electric and natural gas utilities for decades. Timberland General Manager Mark Gibson says the company began investing in drone technology and expanding its services into the UAS space about five years ago.

"Drone technology is absolutely here and is going to continue to grow," Mark says. "There are many valuable applications for the utility industry, and there are applications out there we don't even



know yet. There's so much potential."

Timberland offers a full lineup of drone services, including simple inspections and more specialized services such as infrared or corona inspections, beyond-visual-line-of-sight operations and payload operations such as pulling line across a river, canyon or other difficult terrain.

"There is a lot of potential for UAS applications in the utility space," Mark says. "They can't do everything, but they can save a lot of time and improve safety. Drones can keep a guy from having to climb a tower in bad weather or trudging through snow for miles. It can make mapping systems more cost effective. There are so many useful applications for this technology in the utility space."

Timberland partnered with General Pacific to develop the Northwest Drone Academy. In addition to its FAA Part



Many electric and natural gas utilities are investing in drone technology and using the systems to make quick work of jobs that previously took far longer.

107 Certification Class, the academy also offers mission-specific and specialized training, including 3D point cloud mapping, asset monitoring, corona, external load, line pulls, LIDAR, multispectral imaging, photogrammetry, surveillance, asset protection, thermography and videography/photography.

Most UAS applications fall into two categories: reconnaissance and payload operations. Reconnaissance is often easier and less costly than payload operations because the latter requires drones that can carry lines or equipment effectively. Reconnaissance drones are often small and inexpensive. Some models are available for less than \$1,000.

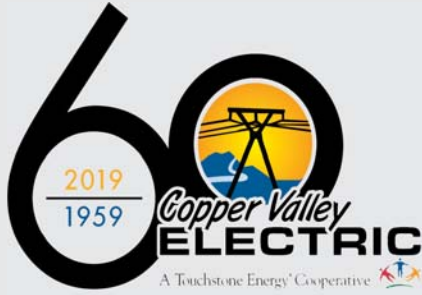
For any utility considering an in-house drone program, consultation with an aerial solution provider might be a good starting point. Discussing needs



and objectives with a professional up front can simplify the drone selection and acquisition process and help utilities decide which services to train for in-house and which services might be better to hire out. ■

**This video frame from a West Oregon Electric Cooperative drone shows one of the co-op's lines and the rugged terrain that once made inspecting it a two-day job.**

Photo courtesy of WOEC



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 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

**Important Dates**

**August**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2019, in Glennallen

**CVEA Member Tours:** The Fall Valdez member tours will be Monday and Tuesday, August 12-13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\*\*Registration required; contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org) for information

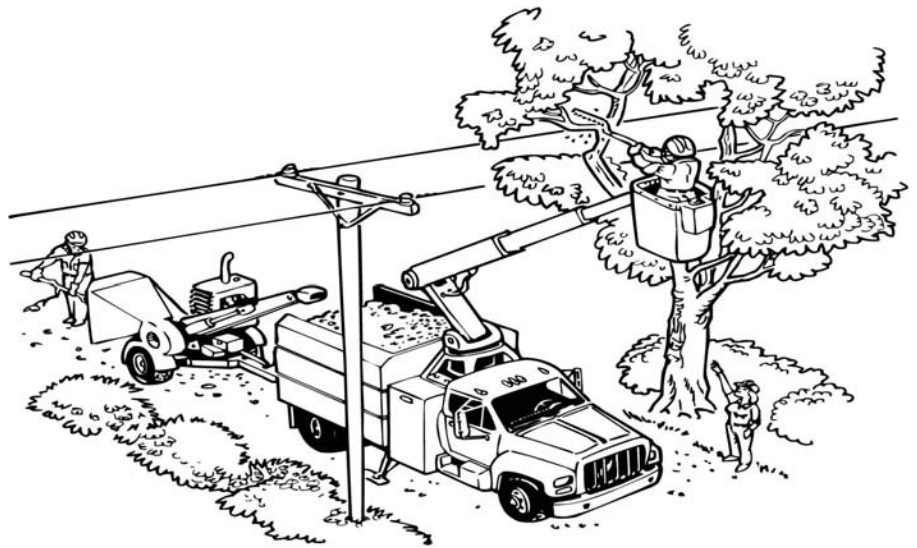
**September**

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 2, 2019, for Labor Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

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# Right-Of-Way Clearing



Right-of-way clearing is an important part of Copper Valley Electric's goal of delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service. Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages especially during severe weather conditions. The nice summer weather has caused a lot of growth. If you have a tree that is within 10 feet of a power line, please call CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

## Construction Season Will Soon Come to an End

As summer comes to an end, so does construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, don't wait. Please contact CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 as soon as possible.

## Pay Your Bill and Manage Your Account Online Using Smarthub

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier? If so, log on to [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org). You can pay your CVEA monthly bill directly from your bank account or by using your debit card and Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and track your monthly usage and cost as well as daily averages. This is a great way to manage your CVEA account. Just go to [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) and click the *Smarthub* button on the home page.