

## From manhole mud to electrical lines, Anderson is game

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Jason Anderson doesn't miss playing in the mud because he still gets a chance now and then.

Anderson left Gothenburg's street, water and sewer department for a job in the electrical department but, like all members of the city crew, helps in all the public service departments even assisting with snow removal.

His ability to lend a hand was probably a factor in Anderson being named the 2009 employee of the year by his coworkers and the entire group of city employees.

Electrical department foreman Mike Libich thinks so.

"Pretty much whatever we ask him to do, he does," Libich said.

City services director Shane Gruber described Anderson as an excellent addition to the city.

Anderson, an apprentice lineman, doesn't see that what he does is anything special.

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“What I like best about my job is all the people I work with,” he said. “You try your hardest to get along with everyone.”

Whether that happens while fixing an electrical line or repairing a water pipe, Anderson likes to help out.

Anderson also enjoys the hours he works and being in town—something he was unable to do when employed by Schwan’s, a frozen food delivery service.

He applied for and received a job with the City of Gothenburg because of the long hours and time away from home while working for Schwan’s.

Two years after working in the street, water and sewer department, Anderson got a job as an apprentice lineman in the electrical department.

“It was an opportunity to make more money,” he said.

In that position, he said he does whatever needs to be done to keep the city’s electrical operating and up to date.

Because he’s in an apprentice merchant’s program, Anderson gains experience and studies and takes tests to become a lineman I and finally a lineman II.

Another good thing about working for the city, he said, is the variety of tasks he’s required to do.

One of the most interesting times while working for the city happened during a snowstorm the end of October 2009.

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About a foot of wet, heavy snow pulled down electrical service lines to homes and many broken branches littered the streets.

“We were pretty busy,” he said.

When Anderson learned he was voted the 2009 employee of the year at the city employee annual banquet in January, he said he was shocked and surprised.

All 29 full-time employees are eligible for the yearly award except workers who have received the honor in the past two years. Two part-time employees are allowed to vote.

The list is narrowed to the top four vote getters and everyone votes again to choose the winner.

Anderson, a Hudson, CO, native, said he enjoys living in Gothenburg.

“It’s a nice, quiet community,” he said.

Anderson enjoys hunting, fishing and camping—especially in the Colorado mountains.

He is married to Michelle Anderson, who works at Cabela’s call center in North Platte.

The couple has two children: Kayla, 13; and Wyatt, 10.

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