

Sun River Electric Cooperative



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

Ripples

OCTOBER 2023

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HERE'S AN UPDATE

IT has been a while since checking in with a “message from the manager.” Here are a few things that keep our employees busy.

The new warehouse is progressing. If you have not passed through Fairfield in a while, take a side trip past our warehouse complex and see the new building that is being built. The new facility will allow for more trucks to be housed in the same area as the line materials, as well as offer upgraded quarters for the linemen to have as locker room, training and bathroom facilities. The old warehouse was built in the '40s and has served the cooperative well but it is time to reclassify it as a “cold storage” area.

Our crews have been busy with underground cable replacements, pole changeouts and new service installations. Summer is a time to get after the construction work, and our guys have

MESSAGE

FROM THE MANAGER

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**



been going strong. The cooperative has approximately 50,000 poles in our system, keeping up with pole maintenance is important for the reliability that you have come to expect.

The annual golf tournament was an exceptional event again this year. Our employees take such pride in giving the community a great event. The funds raised are plowed back into a community need somewhere in our service territory, so it truly is a charita-

ble event.

Anyone that took part in one of the community parades this summer no doubt saw our employees out sharing in the fun by throwing frisbees to the folks along the route. We are happy to share in the fun of the various communities that support Sun River Electric Cooperative throughout the year.

Electric safety presentations are being offered and performed by our line personnel. These presentations are good for firefighters, emergency medical personnel, youth, or anyone for that matter, in learning about the hazards that may come because of an event that has infringed on the electric circuits that provide us with our electric services. Having knowledge of the needed safety precautions may save a life. Please attend one of the presenta-

See MESSAGE, page 6

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer. 241523

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

ALWAYS | BEFORE YOU
CALL | DIG



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Robert Pasha, President 406-799-2292
Mitch Johnson, V.P. 406-467-2109
Chris Music, S/T 406-600-8375

TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom 406-431-0168
John Burgmaier 406-463-2522
Bryce Johns 406-289-0730
Leonard Sivumaki 406-264-5482

MANAGER

Brad Bauman 406-467-2526

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WIN the trip of a lifetime! Each year kids from electric cooperatives all over the United States get together to learn about cooperatives and tour our nation's capital.

The 2024 NRECA Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for June 14-21, 2024.

Check out our website for more information. www.sunriverelectric.coop (under the community tab). The essay topic for the 2024 Contest Essay is:

If you could have dinner with one prominent Washington, D.C. figure, whether from the present or past, who would that person be and why? What would you ask them?

Deadline:

Essays must be turned in to Sun River Electric Cooperative by Friday, December 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, call Leanne at 406-467-2526 or email leanne@sunriverelectric.coop.

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST RULES

1. The student must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2024. (Currently a sophomore or junior)
2. Student cannot be a prior winner of the Youth Tour.
3. The student and/or parent or guardian must be served by Sun River Electric Cooperative.
4. The student must write an essay on the topic listed above.
5. Essays must include a copy of the Youth Tour application, which can be found on the Sun River Electric Cooperative website, www.sunriverelectric.coop. RM



MESSAGE

From previous page

tions if you see one offered in your area.

We have had the pleasure of having three young local gentlemen work with our SREC crews this summer. They are Brady Bokma in the Conrad area, Chad

Hitchcock in the Highwood/ Fairfield areas and Cooper Christensen in the Fairfield area. Having these young guys show an interest in our trade is a great thing for our cooperative. The three are considered 1,000-hour employees, and will finish up their hours this fall.

The harvest for our farm members will have been completed by the time

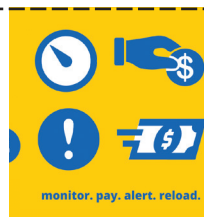
our members read this. I hope your harvest was everything you hoped for. To our other members, may the fall season treat you to some smoke-free skies as the fire season begins to subside.

Until next time, be safe and thanks for your support of our cooperative. RM

REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Pay as you go with
prePAY
electricity from SREC. It is easy!
Call SREC to get started.



LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

LIHEAP PROGRAMS RUN OCTOBER THROUGH APRIL

THE state of Montana, through the Department of Public Health & Human Services, offers two programs aimed at helping low-income individuals reduce their heating costs. The programs run from October 1st through April 30th of each year. **LIHEAP** (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) helps with payment of the primary source of heat in the home. Both renters and homeowners may apply. To the right are the income limits, according to family size.

Apply at the LIHEAP office for your county (see box on the right).

Weatherization program

The **WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM** through LIHEAP helps participants improve the heating efficiency of their homes, thus reducing their energy consumption. Applications are ranked according to the degree of need, and placed in "priority groups." Special priority is given to older adults and disabled individuals. Once approved, an energy auditor will set a time to visit with you about the most cost-effective weatherization measures for your home within the dollar limits allowed.

Energy Share

Another organization, **ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA**, is aimed at helping Montanans faced with emergencies meet their energy needs and move toward self-reliance. It is to be used only after an applicant has been considered for LIHEAP. There are no specific income limits; however, if a household has sufficient resources available to meet the needs, it will be ineligible for assistance. Energy Share is a loan program, so others may utilize the funds once they are paid back.



LIHEAP INCOME GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LIMITS
1	\$29,796
2	\$38,964
3	\$48,132
4	\$57,300
5	\$66,468
6	\$75,636
7	\$77,355
8	\$79,074
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260
11	\$98,970
12	\$106,680
13	\$114,390
14	\$122,100

Applicants must fill out an application available at Opportunities Inc.; 905 1st Ave N; Great Falls, or receive one by mail by calling either 761-0310 or toll free 1-800-326-0955. Applications may also be available at your LIHEAP office or through your energy provider. 207594

LIHEAP OFFICES

Opportunities, Inc

Serves: Cascade, Chouteau and Glacier counties
905 1st Ave N
PO Box 2289, Great Falls MT 59403
(406) 761-0310
(800) 326-0955

Rocky Mountain Development Council

Serves: Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis & Clark counties
648 N Jackson
PO Box 1717, Helena MT 59624
(406) 447-1625
(800) 356-6544

Blackfeet Reservation

Tribal Energy Assistance
PO Box 850
Browning MT 59417
(406) 338-7977

For more information about saving energy in your home, visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance> and select "What Can I Do to Save Energy in My Home?" 