

# 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](http://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

## Changing from summer to winter mode

**W**E all love Montana's summers and, of course, the fall colors have been breathtaking, but now Old Man Winter is just around the corner.

There have been winters when I have been shoveling snow and found a hose or a sprinkler that I forgot to put away. What are things that we should all be doing to get ready for the colder days ahead? When preparing for winter, I like to start outside. First put away all the hoses and sprinklers. If you leave a hose hooked up to an outside faucet through the winter it may cause a pipe to split. This can lead to a leaking mess in your house and possible water damage. Cover up or store your patio furniture and that BBQ. Clean up the leaves, and not just on the ground. Now is a good time to clean out your gutters, outside vents and chimneys. You may want to cut back tree branches that could fall on the house or



### MESSAGE

FROM THE MEMBER SERVICE DEPT.

COLUMN BY **CHRIS CHRISTENSEN**

even fall on a powerline due to winter's heavy snow. **REMINDER:** keep clear of powerlines, and if you aren't sure, give us a call!

You have put away your summer "stuff" and cleaned up the yard, the lawnmower has been winterized and

you have located your snow shovel and rock salt, so now what? Let's head inside the house to see what needs to be done. Make sure all your windows are shut tight and latched. If you had an A/C unit in your window, it may have bent the window frame a little. Make sure after you remove the A/C that the window shuts tightly and latches. This will help your house stay warmer and it is a good security measure. The furnace has probably not

*See MESSAGE, page 7*

### 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

# CONGRATS LEANNE!

## SREC EMPLOYEE WINS COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AWARD

**T**HE Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) held its annual meeting in Great Falls, October 3-4. Every year MECA recognizes a board member and an employee for their actions in their community and who are continually promoting the "Cooperative Spirit."

The criteria for this award is promoting the cooperative image beyond the workday, a community and cooperative commitment, a history of volunteering, progressive attitude, always looking for ways to improve cooperative spirit, and promoting harmony among the cooperative's.

This year, Sun River Electric Cooperative employee Leanne Hall received the "Cooperative Spirit Award."

Leanne has worked for Sun River Electric for 34 years, beginning her career as the front desk receptionist and moving on to payroll, accounts payable and capital credits. Recently, communications and member services have been added to her job duties. She loves to be involved with anything that means promoting member and employee education, and community and employee involvement. She has been a big part of organizing the annual SREC golf scramble, which



Sun River Electric Cooperative employee Leanne Hall won the Cooperative Spirit Award at the MECA Annual Meeting in October.


recently celebrated its 25th year. The tournament has raised more than \$80,000 to help with community projects within the SREC service territory. Over the years she has been quite involved with the MECA statewide organization. Leanne has been the chair of the Education and Training Committee for more than 15 years and has helped at the MECA annual

## MESSAGE

FROM THE OFFICE

COLUMN BY **SHELLEY BATSON**  
Manager of Finance & Administration

meeting for many years. For the past 10 years she has also assisted and chaperoned our area youth essay winners, who have attended the National Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., trip, which is held in June each year. Most recently, she has been appointed as the MECA representative on the Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) Board. The MCDC group helps start and promotes new cooperatives across the state of Montana.

Leanne's involvement in community projects and volunteering has developed her into a leader as she encourages Sun River Electric employees to volunteer in their communities. Thank you Leanne for being such an inspirational and dedicated employee and colleague, to not only Sun River Electric, but other electric cooperatives throughout the state. Congratulations on this much deserved and prestigious award. 







## SIGN UP FOR FREE KIDS BOOKS

Preschool children, ages birth to 5, who live within the Sun River Electric Cooperative service territory, are eligible.

You can register online at <https://imaginationlibrary.com> or scan the QR code below.



# Fun for Kids

**I**f you and your kids attended a local parade over the summer, most likely you saw a Sun River Electric Cooperative crew and received a frisbee! The employees at SREC are committed to volunteering in their communities. There was a truck in every parade within our service territory.

Summer went by so fast – if we missed seeing you – we will see you at the parades next year.

For Halloween, the elementary school children in the Sun River Electric service territory received candy bags to promote safety while trick or treating. RM

## MESSAGE

*From page 5*

run for a while and now is a good time to change out that filter and make sure nothing is piled around the furnace. If you have a ceiling fan it might be a good idea to reverse the fan to circulate warm air. Smoke detectors and fire alarms can be great life savers, when they are working properly! Check the batteries and give them a test. I know my dog goes crazy when I test the smoke alarms, but that is ok because I know he will help wake everyone up in case of an emergency. 324165

Sun River Electric will keep your power on, but sometimes mother nature can make that goal a challenge.

If you are without power, you need to be prepared, especially in the winter-time. It is a good idea to keep a few jugs of water handy and make sure you have flashlights that work and extra batteries close by. It is also a good idea to have a first aid kit. Try not to go in and out of your house too much if the power happens to go off during cold weather. This can let precious heat escape. The same principle goes for the fridge and freezer. Keep those doors closed as much as possible to make sure the food in the fridge stays fresh and the food in the freezer stays frozen.

It is a plus if you have a generator, but you need to make sure that your generator is ready to run. It is a good idea to check the oil, put in fresh gas and start your generator at least every

three months. Check your extension cords for any frays and damage. Your extension cords should have three prongs and be rated for outside use. You may think you have enough extension cords, but remember that you may need a few new ones for plugging in the car, running the generator when necessary and of course you will need to get all your Christmas lights plugged in.

We haven't covered everything, but this is a good start to get you ready for the winter. The cold weather makes us stay inside more but that doesn't mean life should be cold and dreary. Pick out a warm blanket and a favorite book or choose a new hobby you have been considering. Stay warm and stay safe. 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.

