

Sun River Electric Cooperative



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Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

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MAY 2024

Ripples

87TH ANNUAL MEETING

By **CHRIS CHRISTENSEN** | *Sun River Electric*

SUN River Electric Cooperative (SREC) conducted its 87th Annual Meeting of the members on March 29th, at the Fairfield Community Hall. There was good attendance, with close to 180 meals served. Each member received the gift of a stadium blanket and umbrella for registering, and a wonderful lunch was prepared by the Log Cabin from Choteau.

Melissa Soldano from Douglas Wilson & Co. gave the yearly audit report: \$935,148.26 in capital credit retirement was returned to members that were on the system in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Elections were held for District 3 (Brady, Genou, Dutton, Power, Collins) District 4 (Conrad, Valier, Dupuyer, Ledger) and District 5 (Fairfield, Greenfield, Vaughn). Incumbent Directors John Burgmaier, Bryce Johns and Chris Music were all re-elected to serve three more years on the SREC Board.

Doug Hardy, General Manager from Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative was a guest speaker along with Ryan Hall, Communication Director with Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association. Ryan was able to get quite a few people signed up to participate in grassroots campaign, and

Continued next page



ABOVE: Members gather for the meal at Sun River Electric's 87th Annual Meeting.
LEFT: Manager Brad Bauman addresses the members at the Annual Meeting.



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John Burgmaier 406-463-2522
Bryce Johns 406-289-0730
Leonard Sivumaki 406-264-5482

MANAGER

Brad Bauman 406-467-2526

EDUCATION FUND DONATION

By **CHRIS CHRISTENSEN** | *Sun River Electric*

HIGHWOOD is a small town located about 25 miles northwest of Great Falls. Like a lot of Montana towns, it comes from agricultural roots. Ranching and farming have kept this small town alive, and this way of life has been handed down through generations.

If you know anything about Highwood, there should be some conversation about the local school. The Highwood Mountaineers have a long tradition in sports: winning a boys' basketball state title in the early '90s, winning back-to-back girls basketball titles in 2008 and 2009, and of course I can't forget the Mountaineers dominance in football, winning 5 consecutive state titles in the '90s.

These are just a few of the many accolades that the Mountaineers have accomplished. The school also provides an excellent education for the kids in the area. The school seems to be the focal point of this small town, but there is also the Highwood Community Hall that also helps hold this community together.

The town of Highwood is small and does not have a lot of amenities to offer. There is, however, a very nice community hall nestled in the middle of this picturesque little town. It is a multi-use building that hosts such events as hunter safety, after-school clubs, youth groups for middle school and high school students, 4-H events, and summer vacation bible school just to name a few.

The Highwood school uses the community hall quite often for student events and even basketball practice, when neces-



SREC donated to the Highwood Community Center project. Left to Right: Joe Gallus, Leah Johnson, Rudi Bergenheier, Kirsten Brady, Jane Suberg, Bobbette Birkeland, Lisa Semansky, Owen Stong and Lori Decker. 365728

sary. If the walls at the community center could talk, you would hear many wonderful stories of all-school reunions, weddings, baby showers, graduation parties and even a birthday or two. There are many people to thank who keep the Highwood community hall ready to host any event. I said that the town of Highwood does not have many amenities, but if you consider people to be amenities, then I would say the town is blessed with many.

Sun River Electric Cooperative is glad to support the town of Highwood and, of course, the good people who make it what it is. The town needs its community hall, and Sun River Electric would like to make sure it is available for many generations to come. RM

From previous page

also did a prize drawing for those who participated. Brad Bauman, General Manager of Sun River Electric, spoke to the membership on the positive things going on with the co-op during the past year. He also addressed some of the challenges that lie ahead with trying to provide reliable, affordable and safe electricity to the members.

During the meeting, door prize drawings were held, and at the end of the meeting Erik Somerfeld was the lucky winner of the \$100 grand prize. The meals were served by the Fairfield FFA and SREC Linemen. Clean-up after the meeting was also done by Fairfield FFA members.

Thank you to all who attended and allowed the business of the annual meeting to be conducted and approved. RM



Doug Hardy, General Manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative was a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting.

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