

HIGHLIGHTS

PHOTO CONTEST
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Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com

October 2019

By the Community, for the Community

October is National Co-op Month.

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it’s National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Big Horn REA, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Big Horn was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Big Horn’s employees live right



October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that’s you!) have a valuable perspective. That’s why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on lo-
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DID YOU KNOW

Thomas Edison invented over 2,000 items, including almost everything needed to use electricity in our homes....

fuses

sockets

meters

switches



BIG HORN REA MASTHEAD PHOTO CONTEST

As you can see by looking at the **HIGHLIGHTS** Masthead, we are changing the look slightly for the **HIGHLIGHTS** newsletter and would like to share this opportunity of change with our readers.

Each month will be **HIGHLIGHT-ED** with a photo that relates to that month, i.e. Patriotic for July or possibly something with hearts for February or maybe a prize winning smile at the County Fair for August. The point is to be creative and to **HIGHLIGHT** something or someone from the Big Horn service area.

This contest is open to any and all members of Big Horn REA and their families. Professional photographers to amateurs will be accepted.

Maybe you already have a good quality photograph in an old album

that might work. If it meets the following criteria, it will be accepted.

There will be 11 winning entries, one for each of the following months: February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December. In order to qualify for judging, the pictures must meet the following criteria:

DIGITAL: Cameras, Cell Phones, Tablets, etc. must be set to the highest resolution possible. This will take up more space on your device, but will give the best reproduction. No digital printouts will be accepted as they are hard to reproduce with the best quality. Provide the original file as specified and they will be accepted. File types accepted will be JPG, TIFF or RAW.

SLIDES and PRINTS: Must be

in good condition without a lot of blemishes or folds.

The photos subject area will need to be able to fit an area of 8.5" wide by 2.125" tall. Panoramic shots will be the most appropriate but not the only ones to be accepted.

Please bring your submission to the Big Horn REA Office in Basin or contact the office at (307) 568-2419 for mailing instructions. Entries for a specific month need to be supplied by the fifth of the previous month to be judged in time for newsletter deadline. Example: Entries for February must be submitted no later than January 5.

The winning entry for each month will receive a \$50 bill credit.

More information will be found in the November and December issues.

HUNTING SAFELY AROUND POWER LINES

It's October, and in Wyoming that means hunting season! Big Horn REA would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important safety tips as you head out to look for that trophy.

The main safety points to remember are:

- ➊ Shooting near overhead power lines or insulators can result in severe injury or death.
- ➋ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ➌ Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- ➍ Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- ➎ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- ➏ Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- ➐ Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ➑ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ➒ Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- ➓ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose



an obstruction—and a serious hazard—to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.

➊ Never shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, transformers or substations. A stray bullet could not only damage equipment, potentially interrupting electric service, but could be deadly to the shooter. Damage to the conductor could drop the line to the ground, causing a possibility of electrocution to those nearby.

➋ Don't make line workers hunt for problems caused in a hunting area; if you cause or simply notice a problem with lines, poles or equipment, let the co-op know. Sometimes damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, or unless an outage occurs. Keep yourself and your linemen safe this hunting season.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



How is Your Co-op Different?

As October is National Co-op Month, Big Horn Rural Electric would like to educate and inform you, our member-owners, a little bit about co-ops. One item we would like to educate you on is the difference between a cooperative and an independently owned utility (IOU). The following seven principles describe why you should be proud to say you're a member of Big Horn REA.

- One: Voluntary & Open Membership**
Cooperatives, like Big Horn Rural Electric Co., are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities or membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
- Two: Democratic Member Control**
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Big Horn's board of directors is comprised of its members and is elected by the membership. Members have equal voting rights – one member, one vote.
- Three: Members' Economic Participation**
Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Big Horn was established to provide at-cost electric service. Our net margins above expenses and reserves belong to the members and are called capital credits. These capital credits are reinvested in poles, wire and other elements of our system for a period of time before they are refunded to the members.
- Four: Autonomy and Independence**
Cooperatives are self-governing organizations controlled by their members. If Big Horn enters into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, we do so on terms that ensure democratic control by our members and maintain our cooperative autonomy.
- Five: Education, Training and Information**
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, board members, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperatives. Big Horn educates its members through the use of the monthly "Highlights" newsletter and its website.
- Six: Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. Big Horn is a member of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
- Seven: Concern for Community**
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development for their communities through policies accepted by their members. Big Horn invests in our communities through Youth Leadership Camp, scholarships, economic development and safety demonstrations.

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is a member of Touchstone Energy®, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.

National Co-op Month

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cal priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

We hope you will think of Big Horn REA as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built *by* the community, *for* the community.



LIEAP and WAP

(Low Income Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program)

LIEAP pays part of winter home heating bills for eligible people November through May. Seniors (age 60+), those with disabilities, households with young children (age 5 and below), and families with the most need (lowest incomes and highest energy bills) are given program priority.

LIEAP also assists with energy-related emergencies, such as utility shut-offs, deposits, and heat losses due to broken furnaces. LIEAP eligibility is based on household size, total pre-tax household income, and heating fuel type (natural gas, electric, propane, heating oil, coal, wood, pellets).

When approved for LIEAP, qualified applicants may also be approved for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). WAP helps qualified individuals and families reduce their home heating costs by making their homes more energy efficient.

Applications for LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2019 and are accepted until February 29, 2020. Applications for WAP are accepted year-round.

Winter 2019-2020 Application Information:

Applications will be available on the DFS

website <http://www.lieapwyo.org> at local DFS offices, senior centers and at the Big Horn REA office.

To get specific information about your application or to ask that an application be mailed to you, call: 1-800-246-4221.

Is your application is complete?

Get it to the LIEAP Office today.

Fax: 307-778-3943

Mail: PO Box 827
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0827

Deliver: 1401 Airport Parkway, Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82001



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For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419
After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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