

# HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 44, ISSUE 3

Look for us online @ [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

APRIL 2023

## Mark Your Calendar...

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Upcoming District Meetings

May 3rd Meeteetse School Cafeteria

May 4th Shell Community Hall

May 9th Ten Sleep School Cafeteria

May 10th Burlington Fire Hall

May 11th Deaver Community Hall

*Meeting to start at 5:30pm and dinner served at 6:00pm!  
Watch the website and postcards providing more information  
for your specific districts.*

## CYBER SECURITY

[LEARN MORE](#)



According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary can be defined as: measures taken to protect a computer or computer system (as on the Internet) against unauthorized access or attack. If you are playing Scrabble this word is worth 25 points alone and if you work in the cooperative world its value is priceless.

Big Horn REA is engaged in efforts to mitigate cyber-attacks and improve security

overall of its computer systems and facilities. Member data, employee safety, electric systems and reliability are just a few of the things at the forefront of Big Horn's concern when it comes to cybersecurity.

Several "layers" of security have been implemented to protect the data and sensitive information of our members and our system as a whole. Examples of "layers" are

password protection and two factor authentication. If you are a new member and have filled out a membership application recently Big Horn is requesting, you place a password on the account. If someone calls claiming to be you and requests information about your service, we would request the password. If you have been a member of Big Horn's for

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### *Are you planning a new service or a service upgrade?*

Please make sure to call Big Horn about your potential for new or additional service load requirements such as a bin dryer, irrigation systems, or home upgrade. It is important to get this information for our construction work plan and schedule. Big Horn is continuing to see supply chain issues in hardware, transformers, meters, and poles. We have worked diligently at ordering to meet the needs of our members but the more information we have from members in advance the better off we all are.



# Your Candidates

You are a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for a seat on the board

if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative. Mail-in ballots will go out in May and you will have the opportunity to elect a board member from each of these two districts:

## Sara Schlattmann District #1



I was raised outside of Greybull on the Horton Farm. My husband Dean and I reside near Otto, where we raise a small herd of cattle and two energetic boys! I have lived in this area for most of my life, because there is no better place to raise a family. I have a Bachelor's degree in finance from Drake University and a Master's degree from UW. I worked as an agriculture loan officer for ten years and I am currently the business manager for BHC School District #3 in Greybull.

Like most of you, I enjoy the beauty and calmness of the Big Horn Basin. I want to preserve what we have, but work to position us to take advantage of opportunities that we can all benefit from. I want to be a part of an organization that will continue to create chances for our families to return home or simply remain here and live quality lives.

The biggest challenge I see facing the company is to figure out how to keep electricity affordable to our members while also ensuring that the cooperative remains stable and well positioned for future opportunities and advancements. I feel environmental regulation and the push for clean energy are going to make this more difficult. As the needs of our members change, I hope our cooperative can be there to help provide the best options. We must be striving

for energy efficiency that ultimately benefits our members, but not create a situation that makes our electricity unaffordable, therefore driving members to alternative resources.

I have enjoyed representing our communities for the past three years and if re-elected, I will continue to focus on ensuring that this cooperative is working diligently to provide safe, stable and affordable electricity to its members for years to come.

## John Fernandez District #4



My name is John Fernandez, I live on the Lower Greybull and have called Meeteetse home for 63 years. I was raised on the family ranch and learned to work hard, preserve what you have and aspire for more.

I graduated from Meeteetse and received my associates from Northwest College. After graduating I moved to Evanston, Wyoming and worked for Amoco Pipeline Company for ten years. Due to my father's health, I came back to Meeteetse to work on the ranch. As my parents made the difficult decision to retire and sell the ranch, I had a wonderful opportunity to join the Meeteetse Recreation District. After 30 years with the district, I retired in 2019.

As Director, my focus was fulfilling the recreation needs of a diverse small-town population, varying in age from preschoolers to senior citizens. The department's budget

ranged dramatically based on oil and gas production. It was my job to enhance and operate the Rec under that premise.

I have served on many boards (long term) in my career, such as the Meeteetse Community Joint Powers, Meeteetse Youth Work Program, Park County Recreation Board and the Meeteetse Community Development Board. As Director in an organization in a rural community, it's imperative that you have cooperative working relations with other organizations, in order to serve the community best.

I have served on the Board of Directors for the Big Horn REA for the past three years and have been very impressed with the staff. I will do everything I can to ensure that we provide reliability and affordability to our membership. I have attended many local, state, and national conferences, and legislative meeting to educate myself on what we need to do for our sustainability in providing electricity to our customers. The Big Horn REA has provided me with many learning opportunities to educate myself on the Cooperative way. I have completed my CCD, and BLC required courses of the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association, and will soon complete all my necessary requirements.

I ask for your vote to serve three more years on the Big Horn REA Board of Directors and represent District 4.

I would like to serve on the Big Horn Rural Electric Board and would work for the Cooperative's best interest for the present and future.

**CYBER** *continued from page 1*  
a long time and would like a password placed on your account please contact our office. If you call the office to pay your bill, we typically ask for your service address or account number to confirm identity. The payment information is encrypted, and Big Horn employees don't have access to the checking account number or credit card number on file once entered. Our employees are logging in with two factor authentication, backing all work files up to a physical and cloud based backup server and have annual training on what to look for in phishing schemes via email. One of the benefits of being a small cooperative is our employees work closely together and can quickly "sniff" out something if it doesn't seem right. Some typical examples of phishing would be an employee requesting another employee to make a wire transfer or a payroll change, in our office these examples don't make the cut, none of these would be done over email!

Physical cyber attacks can happen at substations and on equipment in order to cripple the electric grid for a multitude of reasons. Big Horn has cameras installed at most of its facilities. Big Horn continues to monitor its physical locations as closely as possible and continues to build stronger defenses for our infrastructure.

Lastly, with spring showers brings May scammers. Typically this time of year we get an uptick in reported scam calls. Please report any strange activity regarding your account to Big Horn directly. Take measures to protect your own data and don't hesitate to call us with any questions.

Big Horn County Sheriff Ken Blackburn attended our March safety meeting. Blackburn visited with the staff about precautions that can be taken by staff in regards to Big Horn facilities and some of the potential threats in our communities.



## ATTENTION IRRIGATORS:

A reminder that you will see your Annual Horsepower Charge on the bill you receive the first part of May. The minimum annual charge under the irrigation rate will be the highest of the following:

**1. The horsepower multiplied by \$26.**

For example – a service with a 25HP motor would be billed 25 x \$26 = \$650.00

**2. A charge of \$200.00.**

If you have made any changes to your irrigation, or have any questions please call our office at (800)564-2419.

# HAPPY Easter



## BIG HORN REA HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

**History Quiz-** If you participated in the history quiz in last months issue of the WREN you may be eligible to win a \$50 bill credit! One winner will be drawn from all correct quizzes returned. Questions and their **answers** were as follows:

**1. Where was Big Horn's first office located?**

- a. Methodist Church
- b. Basin Library

**c. Basin Courthouse**

**2. Who was the longest serving board member?**

- a. Foster Mills
- b. Nahne Jensen
- c. George Hinman
- d. Tom Delaney

**3. How much was the original membership fee?**

- a. \$2.00
- b. None

**c. \$5.00**

**4. From Oct 1, 1937 to Nov 15, 1937 how many miles of line were built?**

- a. 85

**b. 72**

- c. 43

**5. In 1938 Big Horn turned on the lights to 225 homes; at the end of 1940 how many homes had electricity?**

- a. 300

**b. 1,100**

- c. 975

- d. 850

**6. From 1938 to 1949 the board meetings were held at 8 pm as President Ralph Mercer had the meeting changed to 2 pm because?**

- a. Worked better for his schedule
- b. Weather

**c. Saw a ghost**

- d. Allowed members time to attend board meetings

**7. What happened to Kane, WY?**

- a. Destroyed by fire
- b. Consolidated with Lovell

**c. Flooded with creation of Yellowtail Dam**

- d. None of the above

**8. In May, 1938, 3 months after getting power, the Otto church was requesting power for?**

- a. A larger church building

**b. Softball fields**

- c. Street lighting

**9. Meeteetse Light & Power was purchased by Big Horn in 1939 for the sum of?**

- a. \$4,000

- b. \$10,000

**c. \$6,500**

**10. How much was the 1st REA loan for?**

- a. \$50,000

- b. \$250,000

**c. \$82,000**

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months. Allowing sunlight to warm your home.



Source: energy.gov

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Wade Koehn	Greg Tharp
Heather Lawrence	Justin Workman

#### 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).

#### Board of Directors

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