

June 2013

# HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Committed to our Youth

At Big Horn Rural Electric Company, we are proud to offer programs to our youth that will further their education, encourage leadership and give them opportunities to learn about cooperatives and the history of our country. Congratulations to the following youth that have been awarded scholarships and opportunities from Big Horn.

### 2013 Scholarship Winners

**Basin Electric:** Hunter Grant, Greybull

**Big Horn:**

- Tally Wells - Deaver
- Bailey Anderson - Ten Sleep
- Daniel Davidson - Burlington
- Clayton Webster - Meeteetse
- Saren Rasmussen - Burlington
- Brittany Vigil - Basin
- Emily Jones - Burlington
- Stori Hlavnicka - Meeteetse
- Cassinda Mills - Ten Sleep
- Halli Stocklin - Ten Sleep
- Anna Mendez - Burlington
- Wyatt Good - Greybull
- Tessa Watson - Lovell
- Cecilio Zubia - Burlington



### 2013 Colorado Leadership Camp Winners

- Nicholas Carrizales, Burlington
- Rachel Duncan, Basin
- Adam Jones, Otto
- Connor Jones, Otto
- Stevie Rae Jones, Otto
- Taylor Wiles, Burlington

*All of the above students will be eligible to apply for the 2014 Washington D.C. Youth Tour sponsored by Wyoming Rural Electric Association and Big Horn Rural Electric Company.*

### 2013 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Winners

- Sarah Stanworth, Burlington
- Nate Davidson, Burlington
- Kassi Renner, Lovell

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# Summer Safety Sense

It's hard to think of summer without also thinking of fun. Big Horn REA would like to remind you that whether enjoying outdoor activities, hitting the road on vacation, or relaxing with a good book, take a little time to review summer safety with your family and friends.

Electrical hazards during the summer are often related to storms. Lightning strikes, power outages and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms are often the causes of death and injury during summer months.

## Safety During and After Storms

Take care when stepping into a flooded area, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potential lethal trap.

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock

hazard, or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

The following tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the

person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

# Manager's Message

As a member/owner of Big Horn Rural Electric Company your involvement with your cooperative is important and an added value to doing business with your local cooperative. Big Horn REA is your company and your input is considered as the board members make company decisions and policies.

During the week of May 20th, we scheduled meetings in Basin, Ten Sleep, Meeteetse and Lovell to meet with members to discuss potential new service load requirements. This information will be used as part of Big Horn's Long Range and four year construction work plans to utilize

resources and budget for system upgrades.

It is our job to educate and inform our members about such things as: legislative issues impacting utility companies; financial position of the cooperative; and to answer questions you may have. Big Horn will be holding district meetings this summer in our service territory. Notices of the meeting stating the time, date and place will be sent to all members in that particular district. We will also provide you information in our newsletter and on our web site. The district meetings are a great opportunity to enjoy a

lunch, visit with friends, and become informed about your company.

Big Horn always strives to provide excellent customer service whether paying a bill, during a power outage, or building a new service. Attending a district meeting will allow us an opportunity to ensure we are meeting your expectations of your electric provider. Your attendance will be appreciated.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to give one of the employees, a Board Member or myself a call. We appreciate working for you.

Enjoy the summer and be SAFE.

# Big Horn REA Works to Improve System for Members

Big Horn REA's commitment to provide reliable electricity begins with a ten-to-twenty year work plan that sets forth a strategy for improvements and additions to the distribution/transmission system. One of the major improvement projects included in the plan called for replacement of a section of transmission line that was originally constructed in 1961.

After reviewing several bids, Big

Horn contracted with Ward Electric Co. to replace the line that runs from the Greybull substation on Greybull River Road to approximately ¼ mile north of the landfill located between Basin and Greybull. This endeavor called for the replacement of approximately 3.3 miles of wire and 50-60 power poles. According to Jeff Stocklin, Big Horn REA's line superintendent, "The new line will now accommodate load growth for

the area and improve the system reliability between Western Area Power Administration's Elk Creek substation and the Nahne Jensen substation."



## In Memory



Thomas "Scotty" Hinman was hired by Big Horn REA on August 18, 1970 and worked until his retirement on May 3, 2001. He worked as a lineman, line foreman and master electrician for the cooperative. Scotty passed away April 25, 2013. He will be missed!

### REMINDER:

June is the last month to sign up for Budget Billing. Budget Billing allows for members to pay the same amount every month for electric service.

- Sign up for this service during the months of April, May and June
- Must have a usage history for a period of 12 consecutive months
- Account for electric service must be current in payments
- Must complete a Budget Billing Plan Agreement

Contact Big Horn for details at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419

### Non-Discrimination Statement

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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### CO-OP Connections Local Discount

# ANNOUNCING

Big Horn REA is pleased to announce that we have secured another local discount for those members using their Co-op Connections cards.

A great big thank you to :



## GOTTSCHKE WELLNESS CENTER

406 S 4TH ST  
BASIN, WYOMING



Present your Co-op Connections card at time of services to receive **\$5 OFF MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP**  
(Cannot combine with other offers; start-up fee may be necessary)

If you own a business and would like to join the Co-op Connections program as a local vendor, please contact Sheila at Big Horn REA, 307-568-2419. Please encourage those businesses you use the most to join our program!



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third—and water costs by more than half—by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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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).