



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

June 2020



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

CEO June Message

Summer is here and hopefully this virus is behind us. Even with all the uncertainty that we are facing, I am proud to say HCE employees have continued to provide the same great customer service to our members. Internally, management

balanced making changes to keep our employees safe while still being available to our members. Technology has played a key role in progressing through this crisis together. I would like to take a moment to thank Independence Bank and Rocky Boy Veterans Center for accepting payments during this time on our behalf. HCE has additional payment options available through Smart Hub, Quick Pay, drop box and a 24/7 phone number. Please give our office a call if you would like to explore any of these payment options to select the one that works best for you.

As you know, we were not able to hold our Annual Meeting of Members in May, but our Board of Trustees is planning on calling a special meeting. The timing and delivery of the magazine does not allow me to explain the full details at this time;

however, a special communication will be sent out to each member individually.

Capital credits are one benefit of cooperative membership. As an owner of the cooperative, each member is allocated a portion of the cooperative's net income each year. The funds allocated are paid out in future years depending on the financial position of the cooperative in the form of general retirements. Capital credit checks totaling \$478,838.19 were mailed in May. The HCE Board retired 100% of 1985, 50% of 1986 and 1% of 1987-2018.

The HCE Board recently selected winners for our annual scholarships. As always, we are continually impressed with the applications we receive. Congratulations to this year's winners: Noah Nitz, Caden Rettig, Samantha May and Faith Gasvoda. We wish the class of 2020 success in their future endeavors.

By following the cooperative principle of concern for community, we continue to make a difference in our communities, by looking out for our neighbors and lending a helping hand whenever and wherever we can. Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

HCE Announces Scholarship Recipients

The Hill County Electric (HCE) Board of Trustees is proud to announce the recipients of the 2020 HCE scholarships. Best wishes to the Class of 2020!



Noah Nitz- Basin
Electric Power Cooperative
\$1,000 Scholarship



Caden Rettig
HCE Participation Basin
Electric Power Cooperative
\$500 Scholarship & HCE
MECA \$500 Scholarship



Samantha May
HCE MECA Participation
\$500 Scholarship



Faith Gasvoda
Tell Us Your Story
\$1,000 Scholarship

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 901 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

- WAPA/NWE: 725**
- Underground faults: 133**
- Equipment/Material failure: 32**
- Wildlife: 10**
- Weather: 1**

This compares to 186 hours one year ago. Alamon continues to test poles in HCE's service territory. Their vehicles have HCE magnetic signs on them.

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HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Larry's Bolivia Adventure

By Denise Kovacich, HCE Communications Specialist

As you may have read in April's edition of the Rural Montana magazine, linemen from around Montana traveled to Bolivia for the project facilitated by NRECA International. The goal was to bring electricity to the remote village of Villa Cotoca in Bolivia. HCE Lineman, Larry Hillard, was one of the 14 linemen from Montana electric cooperatives to make the trip.

I sat down with Larry recently and we talked about the trip and what it was like to bring electricity to this small village. Given the opportunity to be part of this project, Larry thought it would be a great experience. He told me, "I like to help people."

The team lost two and a half days on the project due to travel delays, but this did not stop them. Larry commented, "We are linemen, we are used to adversity. It is like what we do after a big storm." These guys knew what they had to do and just started working. The only difference was they were on a tight schedule which resulted in long days working in high heat and humidity. At times they were not sure they could get the seven miles of line done in time, but they finished on the last day with an hour to

spare before they had to leave to head back to Montana. Larry said, "Everyone got along and worked so well together. By the end of the time we were there we believed we would get it done."

While Larry worked framing and setting poles, which were made from eucalyptus trees. They also set the poles by hand. It was very important to stay hydrated. He said he drank 20 bottles of water and at least five bottles of drinks with electrolytes every day. The drinks were warm as little ice was available for their coolers.

Netting over the beds, big bugs, ants, bats and frogs were common. They had to watch for falling trees and vines that could be very dangerous. Larry mentioned there were more motorcycles than cars and they communicated with other vehicles on the road by honking their horns. He also shared some photographs of beautiful butterflies and incredible sunsets.

As we finished talking, Larry said, "I recommend this to anyone who gets the opportunity to participate in one of these projects. It is something I will never forget."



SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping!

Pure New York Maple Syrup

Sealed one (1) gallon jugs. \$42.00 per gallon. Call 406.374.2292, no calls on Sunday, please.

2003 Honda Motorcycle

2003 Honda VTX 1800 motorcycle highway bike with extras. Has 11,000 miles, call 406.378.2484.

2002 Ford Focus SE

Four-door 2002 Ford Focus SE with 6000 actual miles, has always been garaged. Needs a new fuel pump. Asking \$2,000, call 406.932.4700 or 406.665.5373 (cell).

Empire Direct Vent Wall Furnaces

Two 20,000 btu Empire direct vent wall furnaces, model DV-20E-3. Set up for propane. Asking \$1,000 or \$1,500 for both. Call 406.932.6775.

VW Trike

Custom-built VW trike, 170 miles, 1776cc engine, big valve heads, Carter 2-barrel carb, s.s. springer front end, bus transaxle, suicide clutch. Asking \$5,000, trades considered. Call 406.547.2184.

Vintage VW Parts

Three motor blocks and crankshafts, rods, alternator, carb, dist, glass, and early style door. Asking \$250, call 406.547.2184.

2001 Prowler 5th Wheel Trailer

Prowler 32 1/2 ft 5th wheel trailer with three slides, four new 16-inch tires and two air conditioners. 7100 generator also available. Trailer is in great shape. Asking \$7,500, call 406.654.2756.

2009 Toyota Camry

2009 Toyota Camry with 121,000 miles. It is an automatic 2.4 liter with good tires. Runs great and gets good fuel mileage. Call 406.262.4310.

Singer Treadle Sewing Machine

Patented 1910 Singer Treadle Sewing Machine for sale. "An oldie but a goodie." Machine is in good shape, works and has attachments. Call 406.622.3605 or 406.788.2717.

Own Your Own Business Opportunities

Owner is retiring and looking to sell all merchandise and equipment for a Second Hand and Antique Store. Plus, an upholstery machine and a large selection of material and supplies to open your own upholstery shop in addition to a large supply of materials to refinish furniture. If interested or for more details, call 406.739.4361.

Buffalo Meat

Buffalo meat for sale by the half or whole. Call 406.697.0993.

4000 Watt Generator

Sears/Craftsman 4000 watt generator. 110 outlets work, but the 220 outlet needs to be rewired. Make an offer. Call 406.353.4462, located in the Harlem area.

Yamaha Motorcycle

2007 Yamaha motorcycle \$1,500 or best offer. Call for a picture, 406.350.0385.

Ali Arc Aluminum Front Bumper

Bumper has push bar and lights. Fits 2008-2010 Ford F-450 and 550 Super Duty truck, in good condition. Asking \$600, call 406.397.3333

2014 Flat Bed Trailer

2014 PJ 30 foot flatbed trailer. Has 10 foot hydraulic dovetail, dual wheel 16,000 pounds, tandem axles and air brakes. Excellent condition, asking \$14,000. Call 406.397.3333.

Wanted to Buy

Looking to buy a 1955 to 1958 Chevy car or 1/2-ton truck. Call 406.326.2287.

Wanted To Buy

Looking to purchase a small upright freezer in the Havre area. Call 406.395.4581.

1967 Ford Thunderbird

Two-door classic vehicle with a 390 engine and 90,000 actual miles. It has new tires plus an excellent interior but needs some minor bodywork and paint. Asking \$7,000, call 406.357.4282.

Leer Topper

2016 Leer topper off a 2006 short bed Chevy. Topper is taller in the back to make lots of room, like-new condition. Can send pictures, call 406.379.2605.

Electric Service Loop

200-amp electric service with loop, mast and wires. Located in Harlem area. Asking \$150, call 406.353.4462.

Tractors and More

IHC Industrial tractor with loader, T9 IHC Caterpillar with dozer and grapple bucket (older one), 990 David Brown tractor with loader and Suzuki 200 2x4 four-wheeler (as is). Call 406.739.4361 evenings for more details.

2016 Dodge Ram

2016 Dodge Ram 1500 crew cab with four-wheel drive, a 5.7 Hemi, traction control and back up camera, 49,540 miles. Runs great and is powerful. Price reduced to \$19,895, Call 406.378.2542.

Misc Items For Sale

17-foot Grumman aluminum canoe, \$500. Craftsman 28-inch snow thrower with 9 hp gas engine and cab, \$450. Snowsport snowplow, 18-inch x 84-inch, includes heavy-duty 31-inch wide push frame, \$300. Call Mike at 406.547.2409.