



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

Nov 2020



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hcelectric.com



Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## CEO November Message

While we associate giving thanks and counting our blessings with Thanksgiving time, it is something we should do every day. Hill County Electric (HCE) has a lot to be thankful for including our members, employees, and Board members.

industry. Fritz has been involved within the Farm Service Office, Cenex/Harvest States Cooperative, 4-H, his church, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Land and Mineral, Montana Grain Growers and Havre Day Activity Center. He is not just involved with these organizations; he has held leadership roles with each of them. While being part of all these other organizations, Fritz has also dedicated 40 years to ensuring HCE members have access to reliable electric service at affordable rates. Thank you Fritz and congratulations!

Each year at Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) Annual Meeting of Members, MECA selects Cooperative Spirit Award winners from MECA member cooperative nominations. HCE is proud to announce that Board member, Clarence "Fritz" Keller and HCE's CFO, Mark Majeres were selected as this year's Cooperative Spirit Award winners. Fritz and Mark are both very deserving of this honor.



Mark Majeres  
HCE CFO

Mark Majeres' knowledge, willingness to help others and dedication to HCE and the community made him a great choice for the Cooperative Spirit Award. Mark has dedicated his entire career to working for cooperatives, starting with 18 years at Cenex/Harvest States before moving to HCE 17 years ago. Mark takes the time to educate the public and his fellow employees on what a cooperative is and the



Clarence Keller  
Board Member

benefits the members and employees receive being part of it. Mark has coached numerous sports over the years including hockey, baseball, and softball. He also spends time helping at his local church. This quote from his nomination letter sums Mark up, "His quick wit, attention to detail, and loyalty to the cooperative have endeared him to his colleagues and HCE's members. He is a true champion for the cooperative with a tireless commitment to serving our members."

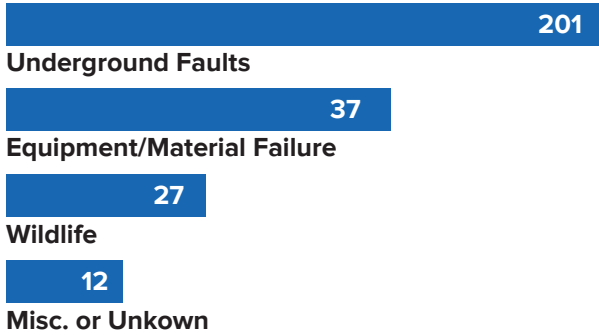
Fritz is someone who embodies the cooperative principles and we cannot think of anyone who symbolizes the 7th Cooperative Principle of Concern for Community more than Fritz. He is a true leader in the community and has given countless hours to better the community in which we live and work. We all know of the roles Fritz has held at MECA, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association and Montana Council of Cooperatives. His community involvement goes well beyond just the electric

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!

# HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 277 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



This compares to 3,198 hours one year ago.

## Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

# Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

The kitchen, it is one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish.

Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort:

- **When possible, cook with smaller appliances.** Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.
- **Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load.** These are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.
- **Help large appliances work less.** There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. Keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first.
- **Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Run full loads and avoid using the "rinse hold" function as it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.

# Win up to a \$2,500 Scholarship!



WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Sophomore and Junior Member Dependents

HOW DO I APPLY? Complete an essay on “How has reliable electricity benefited you and your community through the COVID-19 pandemic?”. Submit your essay online by Dec 15th.

A local winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and be entered into the statewide essay contest for a \$2,500 scholarship.

## Thousands in Scholarships Awarded Each Year!

**\$500** MECA Scholarship - **January 15th**

**\$1,000** Basin Electric Scholarship - **January 15th**

**\$1,000** Tell Us Your Story Scholarship - **March 1st**

**\$1,000** Lineman Workforce Development Scholarship - **March 1st**

**\$500** MSU-N Electrical Tech Workforce Development Scholarship - **March 1st**

**\$100, \$200, \$300 & \$500** Luck of the Draw Scholarships @ **Annual Meeting**

APPLY ONLINE: [www.hcelectric.com](http://www.hcelectric.com)

**HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy  
Cooperative



## 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!

### **Dayton Generator**

Dayton generator, set 25000 KW PHI. Includes PTO driveline. Never used, asking \$1,600. Call 406.376.3268.

### **Case Trencher**

Case DH4B trencher, 4-foot-deep depth and frost chain. Asking \$8,500, call 406.376.3268.

### **Snow Dogg Snow Plow**

Plow has a 7 1/2 foot straight blade, like-new condition. Equipped for a Ford 3/4-ton pickup but could be fitted to something else. Cost \$4,175 ten years ago, will take \$2,000. Call 406.378.3233.

### **Jiffy Ice Drill**

Model 30 Jiffy ice drill. Used but in good shape, made in the USA. May be seen in Fort Benton, call 406.622.3605.

### **Brand For Sale**

Quarter Circle R Lazy S (view photo of brand at [www.hcelectric.com/swap-and-shop](http://www.hcelectric.com/swap-and-shop)). Cattle left rib, horse left shoulder. Electric branding iron included. Brand is currently registered in Chouteau County, MT. Call 406.737.4232.

### **1969 Chevy C-10 Long Box Pickup**

Straight, original 92,500 miles with 396 engine. Has new wheels, tires, seat and carpet, minor rust. \$6,000 firm call 406.572.3445.

### **720 John Deere Row Crop Tractor**

Runs great, has Pony motor and two (2) brand new tires on the back (never used 15-5-38). Asking \$6,500, call 406.669.3183.

### **Handmade/Homemade Drift Boat**

16-foot drift boat with solid oak, ship-lap floor out of an old schoolhouse. Built in 2004, has hunter green sides and big trout decals on the back. Asking \$2,570, call 406.669.3183.

### **In Search Of**

Old crib with springs, no mattress needed. Call 406.395.4457.

### **1997 Pontiac Bonneville**

Well maintained 1997 Pontiac Bonneville, great road car. \$4,000 OBO, call 406.372.3276. 8\_26

### **Onan Generator**

Onan Marquis 7000m 6.8 KW generator- needs coil. Asking \$1250, call 406.547.2184.

### **Pop-up Screen Tent**

Gazelle pop-up screen tent-portable protection for your picnic. Never used. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

### **Briggs & Stratton Lawnmower**

12.5 HP Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine needs carburetor. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

### **Wanting To Buy**

1955 to 1958 Chevy car or 1/2 ton truck and 410 shotgun. Call 406.326.2287.

### **Irrigating Pipes**

Six-inch aluminum mainline irrigating pipes and fittings. 800-900 feet of pipe, 30 feet 8-inch suction line, water cannon, and PTO pump. Call 406.932.5508.

### **New Holland Baler**

New Holland 1425 square baler and Ford 6 cycle motor for sale. Call 406.326.2287.

### **House in Chester**

House for sale in Chester. Three bedrooms and two baths with large great room plus front and rear vinyl decks. Many updates including new furnace and air conditioner. Large detached garage sits on 3 lots with underground sprinklers. Both house and garage have new metal roofs. Asking \$160,000 or best offer, call 406.292.3663.

### **John Deere Combine**

1989 John Deere combine 6600 spreader. Includes 22-foot header, diesel, hydro with 3424 hours. Good machine, will cut a lot of acres yet, also a lot of extra parts, etc. Call 406.355.4479 and leave message (day or evening).

### **Wanting To Buy**

1968-1972 1/2 ton Ford cab and front fenders. Preferably red, no rust, and in Sweet Grass county or surrounding counties. Call 406.932.5413.

### **Misc Items**

Frame, box spring and mattress with headboard for regular size bed, excellent condition \$250. Projection screen, \$10. Miscellaneous decor \$5-\$10 each. Two small glass top tables, \$10 each. Framed pictures, \$10 each. Call 406.357.2696.

### **Wanting To Buy**

Enamelware dishpan. Call 406.357.2696.