

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC • NEWS & VIEWS

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Manager's Message

By Craig Gates, General Manager/CEO



As I write this in early September, for our October report, we are enduring a fire in the Bears Paw Mountains that is affecting our members and will change the look of Beaver Creek Park and parts of both Hill and Blaine County for years to come. The smoke in the air has been here for some time from the Glacier fires and now is affecting us directly with the added smoke from our fire just south of Havre.

First, I want to reach out and brag about our HCE team! The response to this event has been nothing less than spectacular and humbling. From the employees who volunteer for the local volunteer fire department, to the many employees who volunteered in several different ways, I applaud all you have done. HCE employees helped supply a water truck to ferry water between one site and closer to the fire. They also provided food and bottled water. They helped move cattle and assisted people out of their homes. Non-firefighter employees volunteered to go out and help neighbors and friends protect their property.



Fire crews, volunteers and HCE employees regroup their attack on the East Fork Fire in the Bears Paw Mountains.

Our HCE Linemen were on the job to energize and de-energize lines to keep our members and firefighters safe as the fire spread. I also want to thank those employees who were able

to remain at work during this awful time and help cover for their fellow employees who went out to help their family, friends and neighbors.

Our sister cooperative, Triangle Communications and its subsidiary Triangle Mobile, provided three COWs (cellular on wheels) to ensure that the men and women working on fighting the fire could continue to communicate.



Triangle Mobile sets up a COW (cellular on wheels) to help with communications during the East Fork Fire in the Bears Paw Mountains.

It makes me prouder than usual, (as I am always proud of the HCE team) about our outstanding employees! We talk about our first responder heroes in America and I can assure you that we, at HCE, have them as well. We have both first responders and linemen as well as overall, outstanding employees. It is humbling to know how much we care about our members!



Photo by Peggy Ray of an East Fork Fire blaze in the Bears Paw Mountains.

Member Engagement Saved the Co-op

Hill County Electric (HCE) is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative. When the co-op was founded back in 1945, members of the community knew that we are a locally-owned business – likely because they or someone they knew played a part in helping create the cooperative. Over time as the novelty of receiving electricity waned, the founders passed on and new people moved into the community, viewing the electric co-op like any other energy provider.

But we are different and the key to that difference is you, the member-owner, of our cooperative. Without your support and commitment, we would not exist. For many years, people had no choice in the company that provided them with the electricity they so greatly depended upon, but today, the electric utility industry is changing.

Research proves that when people own something they treat it differently, which is why we encourage HCE members to act as an owner rather than a customer. As an owner, you play a critical role in our success. Each year, if our revenue exceeds our expenses (which is always our goal), a certain percentage is allocated back to you – because you are a member of the co-op.

With that ownership comes certain rights like the opportunity to seek election to serve on the board of directors. If that seems like too big a commitment, we still want and need you to participate in the annual elections.

We continually look for innovative ways to help you use energy efficiently and in a more cost-effective



manner. As our technology has changed, HCE is now able to offer new options for our members including online bill pay, a smartphone app and prepaid metering.

As a local business, we have a real stake in the community, just as you do. That is why we seek opportunities to engage with local organizations to support the First Responders, 4-H groups and many more within our communities.

While electric power is the commodity that your co-op sells, the real power is that together, we empower our local communities. When people feel empowered they accomplish great things.

True, the world is different today than it was in 1945 when HCE was founded, but our mission of serving you and our community is constant. Working together with your active, inspired engagement, we can continue to accomplish great things.



Save with the Co-op Connections Card

Did you know Hill County Electric (HCE) has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?

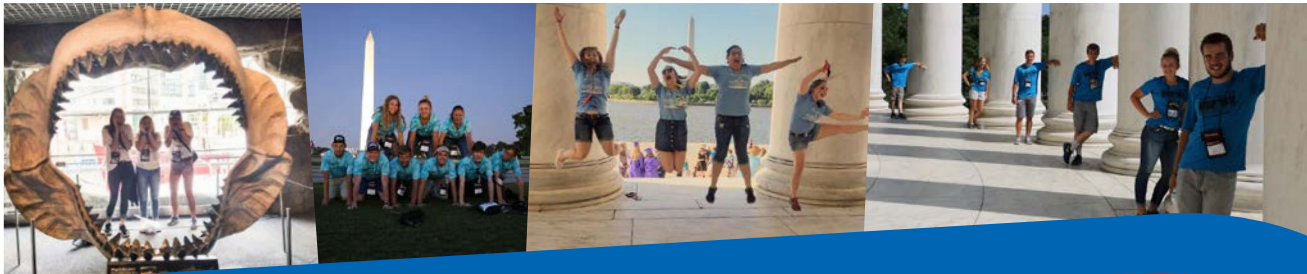
The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves HCE members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at over 3,000 leading online retailers.

Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from tens-of-thousands of retailers because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains. In fact, it was created specifically to help businesses on our nation's Main streets! And the program consistently adds new retailers to help improve our members' experience. One of the most popular features is the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 pharmacies across the country.

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you are taking full advantage of

the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So don't let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Plan a trip for the family, get fit with a discounted gym membership or take advantage of other deals available to you. It really is the one card that does it all!

You can learn more about the discounts we offer by visiting www.HillCountyElectric.coop and click on Co-op Connections under the Membership tab or call our office at 1-877-394-7804.



Win a Trip to Washington D.C.

Tour Dates: June 9-15, 2018

Apply By: December 1

Essay Topic: Electric cooperatives offer various opportunities to young people, such as scholarships, job shadowing, electrical safety programs and sponsorships. What are some innovative ways Hill County Electric can connect with young people?

Visit hillcountyelectric.coop for more info.
**Youth must be a member dependent.*



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Swap & Shop

SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads. If the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

Agriculture

Combine and Tractors

915 IHC combine, 990 David Brown tractor with loader, 36 IHC caterpillar with dozer and gravel bucket, 350 Industrial IHC tractor with loader. Heston bale processor and 2 JD 12ft drills. For more details call 406.739.4361, evenings.

Harrows

Noble 3-bar Tine-Tooth Harrows with mounting brackets and NEW spring teeth. Two 7' sections and five 6' sections. Also two 3' extensions for Melroe duckfoot. Asking \$1000. Call 406.788.8166.

New Holland 9682

1998 New Holland 9682 with 20.8x42 tires at 85%, auto steer, GPS, 4 hyd. all adjustable from the cab, front and rear weight kit, 3500 hours, very clean. Asking \$64,500, call 406.397.3332. *(Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)*

New Holland Air Drill

2007 New Holland 58' air drill, 12" spacing, variable rate 430 cart, single shoot, very low acres. Call 406.397.3332. *(Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)*

Versatile 946

1990 Versatile series 6 946 with 5600 hours, 4 remotes, new air seat, 20.8x42 tires at 35%. Asking \$25,500, call 406.397.3332.

Grain Bin Doors

Three used, complete American grain bin doors (rod & panel style), \$250 per door. Call 406.390.2638.

Combine, Sprayers and Drills

2012 Trail Tech combine header trailer. Will transport up to 26-ft. header, \$3,500. 2012 Case IH PS160 pull type sprayer, 100-ft. suspended boom, windscreens, AutoRate, AutoBoom, 1600 gal. tank, excellent cond., \$35,000. 1995 Concord 4012 40-ft. air drill, 12" spacing, w/3400 cart, new monitor and electrical, 5" carbide tips, good condition, \$25,000. 2008 Summers 60-ft. suspended boom truck sprayer, windscreens, hydraulic boom lift, 500 gal. tank, 5hp Honda motor, \$7,000. Call 406.397.3333.

Water Pump For Sale

5.5 HP OHV Briggs and Stratton Intek motor. Pacer 2" pump. Lg. 2" valve with a 2" outlet & two 3/4" outlets. Less than 2 hrs. on it. Used for transfer pump w/water only, no chemicals. asking \$350. Call 406.622.5252.

Automotive/Recreational

Vehicles and Four Wheeler

1957 Chevy 4 door car, 1967 IHC pickup with 2 wheel drive, 1973 IHC 4x4 pickup, 1954 IHC truck with box has hoist, 1971 Ford truck with bale rack, hoist, box and grain filler and 1985 F250 4x4 pickup. Suzuki 200 2x4 4 wheeler. IHC stationary engine. Call evenings for details, 406.739.4361.

2014 F350

2014 F350, 4x4, King Ranch, diesel, SRW, long box with 76,000 miles. Kodiak Brown and Caribou two-tone paint.

Extended premium 100,000 mi warranty-transferable. King Ranch leather interior with off road and camper packages, plus spray on bed liner. Call Arville Lammers at 406.632.4140. *(Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)*

Miscellaneous For Sale

Longhorn Air Compressor/Gen/Welder Combo

New, never used 2015 Longhorn air compressor/generator/welder combo. Generator is 5,000 watts, 110-220. Welder is 20 -200 amps with leads. Gallons 30 ACFM 21.7-DCFM 31. Honda 13hp, pull and electric start. Paid \$6,500, asking \$4,250. Call 406.462.5521 after 9:00 pm or 406.567.2201.

Cutting Torch Set

Oxygen/propane welding and cutting unit with oxygen tank, propane tank, victor gauges, 60ft of hoses, two Smith lifetime guarantee cutting torches, asking \$225. Call 406.321.4008.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 1217 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

- Equipment/Material failure: 8
- Underground fault: 261
- WAPA or NWE: 274
- Weather or wildlife caused: 151
- Misc or unknown: 143
- Public caused: 379

This compares to 1610 hours one year ago.



HCE Apprentice Lineman, Howard Miller (shown right), training on gloving energized lines at the Cody Hot Line School.