

# HIGHLIGHTS

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

AUGUST 2021

*Photo courtesy Pat Gaines*

## HOT, DRY SUMMER MEANS EXTRA CAUTION

With seemingly no end in sight to our hot, dry summer, Big Horn REA would like to remind our members that your safety is of the utmost importance to us. Hot, dry conditions make the threat of wildfires more of a concern, as we have seen in Wyoming and our surrounding states. Summer thunderstorms bring with them lightning and wind that can easily cause outages and fires. We will do everything in our power to prevent our equipment from causing any unforeseen issues such as outages and wildfires, but sometimes Mother Nature has other ideas.

Big Horn REA is asking for your help in keeping our power lines clear of anything that may cause issues. We may be asking you to allow us to trim or remove trees that are near our lines. We ask that you keep equipment, hay stacks, grain bins, etc. away from our lines. If you see something, i.e. tree branches, balloons, equipment, in our lines, please call the office as soon as possible so our linemen may correct the issue.

Electric utilities like Big Horn must manage



vegetation around power lines for a multitude of reasons. Vegetation is one of the leading causes of outages on both distribution and transmission systems. Outages lead to increased costs, decreased revenues, and dissatisfied members.

In addition, tree and power line conflicts and downed power lines pose serious safety issues for both co-op employees and members. There are also issues regarding wild fires caused by

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## Member Survey

A big thank you to those members who participated in our member survey! As our newsletter deadline was before the survey deadline, you will find results in next month's Highlights! As of July 22nd, 517 surveys had been received either by mail or online. We appreciate your participation in the survey. The Board and management will use this information in planning where your company is going. Your opinion matters!

# Thank You!

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tree and power line conflicts. These types of fires create serious liability issues for the utility.

Finally, increasing regulations regarding vegetation around power lines have made compliance a primary reason to manage vegetation. The public, regulators, and lawmakers have increased expectations of utilities regarding the prevention of future tree and power line related incidents.

In this regard, Big Horn REA will err on the side of safety. You may find that an outage will take longer to repair than you are used to. Due to this strict liability, and the increased risk of fire, Big Horn will be patrolling the whole section of line before putting the power back on. Also, for those members on the mountain, after an outage, Big Horn will put the line on "one-shot" which will cause the line to go out if there is any form of problem where as normally you may just notice a bump. We would rather have you be out of power for a bit longer than have a spark from a tree branch laying on a power line cause a fire that destroys your property.

We appreciate your understanding if outages take a little longer, or if we are being overly cautious, but by working together we will hopefully get through the summer unscathed.



## Why is my bill higher in the summer?

When it's hot outside, it's much more difficult to make the indoor environment cooler than the outdoors. So, your air conditioner has to work much harder to make it happen. And the bigger the temperature difference between the outdoors and the desired temperature indoors, the harder the AC unit has to work. This can result in a higher electric bill than you are used to.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts.

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Ensuring Safe, Reliable Power to our Members

### Pole Testing Program Vital to Improving System

Big Horn REA's commitment to provide safe, reliable power to our members includes an aggressive pole testing and replacement program. These programs are vital to maintaining and improving our system.

Big Horn's goal is to have poles tested annually for damage or decay. We have contracted with Sundance Power Pole Inspections from Meeker, Colorado to perform testing on poles south of Ten Sleep and poles in the Lovell area. This project will begin around August 20th. You will receive a postcard in the mail if your area will be tested.

Sundance PPI marks each pole that needs to be replaced and provides Big Horn with a complete pole report. This report gives Big Horn the opportunity to prioritize and schedule a time to replace the weakened poles before they create major problems or outages. If a pole poses an immediate danger, Big Horn is notified at once. Big Horn tries to replace identified poles within a year.



## Energy Savings for Your Business

Locally owned businesses are the backbone of our community. With summer in full swing, now is the perfect time to make sure your building is equipped for maximum energy savings.

- LED lighting for your business allows you to maintain your preferred brightness levels while keeping energy costs low. And don't forget about your outdoor lighting options as well as timers for automatic, overnight shutoff.
- Check any refrigeration to ensure it is running optimally and keeping items cool without setting the thermostat lower than necessary. Keep up with regular maintenance to ensure safe and longer-lasting inventory.
- Electric motor-driven systems account for about 25% of all commercial energy use. For larger operations, variable speed drives may be necessary to optimize your energy consumption.
- Unplug all unnecessary or unused appliances and electronic equipment. Many of these devices continue to draw power even when they are turned off. Advanced power strips are a smart, low-cost upgrade.
- Make sure your HVAC system is sized



correctly for your business space. If it is not, this could lead to inefficient operation or insufficient cooling.

These tips can help you lower your energy use while keeping your operations humming.

Big Horn REA knows that your bottom line is important when making these business operations decisions. If these or other energy-saving adjustments require purchases, be sure to check out our rebates section about ways to save – [www.bighornrea.com/rebates](http://www.bighornrea.com/rebates).



**A** new feature for 2021 to allow you to get to know our employees just a little bit better.

# Watt's Cookin'

— At Big Horn REA —

## GREG THARP



Greg is a Journeyman Lineman in Basin. He has worked for Big Horn REA for almost 10 years.

### What do you

#### bring to your co-op?

Problem solving skills and a positive attitude.

#### What is the best thing about working at Big Horn?

The people I get to work with. They are like family.

#### What is your favorite meal from childhood?

Homemade lasagna!


## Greg's Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin

### Ingredients:

8-10 slices of streaky bacon, long enough to wrap around the pork 1 ½ times	1 tbs olive oil
1 lb pork tenderloin at room temp	1 tbs honey or maple syrup
Salt and pepper to taste	

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lay the bacon next to each other on a cutting board, slightly overlapping. The width of the bacon should be enough to wrap the length of the pork. Season the pork with salt and pepper. Tuck the thin end under so the length of the pork is roughly the same thickness. Heat the oil in an oven proof skillet over high heat. Sear pork on all sides. Place pork on the bacon. Use a knife to help keep the bacon together and



roll the pork up, finishing with the seam side down.

Use the knife to help transfer back to the skillet. Drizzle with honey all over. Roast for 25-30 minutes basting once or twice with the pan juices, mopping up plenty of the honey pooled at the base of the pork. Remove from oven and baste again. Let it rest for 5 minutes. Baste once more just before serving. Cut into thick slices!

## HighLIGHTS

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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).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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