



Big Horn Rural
Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM



Photo by: Greg Tharp

SCHOLARSHIPS 2026



Big Horn Rural Electric Company will be awarding scholarships to recognize and encourage the continuing education of the cooperative's member-students.



In addition, the Mike Lowe Memorial Scholarship is being offered to an applicant who plans to attend an approved regional electrical line-worker training program. Applicants must be current members or dependents of current members receiving electricity at their primary residence from Big Horn Rural Electric.

Wyoming Rural Electric Association is also offering a \$3,000 electrical line-worker scholarship to encourage, promote, and educate line-workers for careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives.

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January



- 1- New Year's Day (Closed)
- 5- Bills Sent Out
- 21- Autopay Day
- 26- January Bill Due

February



- 2- Bills Sent Out
- 5- Scholarships Due
- 16- Presidents Day (Closed)
- 21- Autopay Day
- 25- February Bill Due

SCHOLARSHIPS

This scholarship is available to high school graduates and older “non-traditional” students interested in a career in the electric industry. Applicants do not have to be members of Big Horn Rural Electric to qualify.

Applications for all scholarships are available at the office of Big Horn Rural Electric, 415 South St. in Basin, on the website at www.bighornrea.com, and at each of the area high schools. All applications are due by February 5, 2026, by the end of the business day.

Offering scholarships is just another way that Big Horn REA practices the cooperative principle of Concern for Community.

RATE INCREASE

As previously discussed, Big Horn Rural Electric will be implementing a rate increase effective February 2026.

This decision was made by the Board of Directors in response to an approximate 10% rate increase from Tri-State Generation and Transmission. After review with our rate consultants, the overall rate increase for Big Horn Rural Electric will also be approximately 10%. Please note that the specific impact on your billing will vary depending on your rate class, as different classes have different rate structures.

The Board understands that raising utility rates is a difficult decision, especially during challenging economic times, and it was not taken lightly. This measure is essential to ensure the continued provision of safe and reliable power to our community.



Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

Safe
Electricity.org®

Source: NSC

»»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

Ice and other severe winter weather can result in power outages:

When severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or windchill dangers.

Supplies for the storm:

At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies/medicines for 72 hours. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charger sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records. Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them as well. Also have these items ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets and warm clothing.

Readying the house:

Weatherproof your home ahead of winter by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

Prepare your vehicle with an emergency kit:

According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

Prepare your vehicle:

Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and cooling system, use winter tires and replace them if the tread is less than 2/32 of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently. For information about electrical safety or storm preparation, visit safeelectricity.org.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS:

Beware of “winter bill relief” energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling your utility’s phone number located on your energy bill—do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text. Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won’t pressure you for immediate action.



Recipe

• made with love •

Name of the dish

Molassess Cookies
by Jeff Pillow

Ingredients

- 2 ¼ C all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ C unsalted butter
- ½ C packed brown sugar (light or dark)
- ¼ C sugar
- ⅓ C unsulphered or dark molasses
- 1 large egg (room temp)
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- ⅓ C sugar, for rolling

Directions

- Whisk the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and salt together until combined. set aside.
- In large bowl using mixer, beat butter and both sugars together on high speed until creamy and combined. Add molasses and beat until combined. Then add the egg and vanilla extract and beat until combined. scrape sides and bottom of bowl as needed.
- Mix dry ingredients into wet ingredients until combined on low speed. Dough will be slightly sticky. Cover dough tightly with aluminum foil or plastic wrap, chill for 1 hour.
- Preheat oven 350°. line baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Roll cookie dough, 1 tablespoon each into balls. Roll in sugar. bake for 11-12 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before transferring to wire rack to cool.



WANTED

We would love to hear from
our members!



Got a scenic photo of a place on our grid or a recipe created by you?

Please email us at jazmin@bighornrea.com to have your photo or recipe added to our monthly newsletter!



If your submission is chosen to be published in our newsletter you will receive a \$25 bill credit!

>>> BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

Call the office number: ANYTIME
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5:30 p.m., weekend and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s)



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
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Make sure to check out our QR Code to reach our website quicker, and follow us on Facebook for any outage updates!



BigHornRuralElectric

