



# HIGHLIGHTS

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Photo submitted by:  
Jade Schmidt

## ANNUAL ELECTION VOTING 2026 >>>



**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 25, 2026. IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY!**

At Big Horn REA, your voice matters. For decades we have been owned and governed by members like you. Your vote in our annual Board of Directors election is your voice in your cooperative, a chance to weigh in on leaders who will represent you and your interests.

We will be holding a director election using mail-in ballots again this year. There is one board candidate for District #1 (Otto, Emblem, Burlington area) and one board candidate for District #4 (Meeteetse area) that were nominated by the Nominating Committee on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The Bylaws of Big Horn Rural Electric Company provide for the election of directors by members using mailed ballots. You will receive your ballot and Annual Report in the mail in a specially marked envelope. No member may submit more than one ballot.

### INSIDE

- Annual Election Voting 2026
- Director Gold
- Attention irrigators
- Energy tip of the month
- Your Candidates
- Recipe

#### May

- 4- Bills Sent Out
- 11- District 4 Meeting
- 13- District 3 Meeting
- 14- District 2 Meeting
- 19- Ballots Sent out
- 21- Auto Pay Day
- 26- May Bill Due

#### June

- 1- Bills Sent Out
- 18- Ballots Due
- 22- Auto Pay Day
- 25- June Bill Due

CONTINUED...  
**ANNUAL ELECTION VOTING 2026**

Please be sure to use the postage paid return envelope that was included with your ballot to return it. This envelope ensures your ballot will be mailed to an independent auditor for the vote tally. Any ballots returned directly to Big Horn REA **WILL NOT** be counted. Ballots must be received no later than Thursday, June 18th, 2026, in order to be counted and to receive a \$25.00 credit on the July electric bill. The \$25.00 credit is one per membership – not one on each electric account you have with Big Horn REA.

Thank you for your participation in the election of directors for YOUR cooperative – we need your vote!



Congratulations to our board members, Willie Bridges & John Fernandez for renewing their Director Gold certificates through NRECA.

Director Gold recognizes directors who are committed to ongoing education and strong leadership. Maintaining this certification takes dedication - and we're proud of their continued investments in learning and service.

Thank you for being dedicated board members, Willie & John!

(Please detach here and return this portion in the envelope provided)

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**ONLY ONE VOTE PER DISTRICT.**

Director District 1:  Sara Schlattmann


Director District 4:  John Fernandez

X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's Signature (this must be signed to be valid)  
By signing this ballot form, I hereby swear and affirm that I am a current member of Big Horn REA and that I am authorized to sign this ballot form.

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**IMPORTANT**  
**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
Must Vote & Return By 1:00 PM  
 June 18, 2026 if your  
 mail ballot is to be counted  
 and to receive your  
 \$25.00 bill credit



**Big Horn Rural Electric Company**  
 P.O. Box 270  
 Basin, WY 82410  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

You will see your annual Horsepower Charge on the bill you receive the first part of May. The minimum annual charge under the irrigation rate will be the highest of the following:

**The horsepower multiplied by \$35.**

For example - a service with a 25 HP motor would be billed 25 x \$35 = \$875.00

**A minimum charge of \$200.00.**

If you have made any changes to you irrigation, or have any questions please call our office at (800)564-2419.



## >>> ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

*Source: energy.gov*

You are a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative. Mail-in ballots will go out in May and you will have the opportunity to elect a board member from this district:

**Sara Schlattmann**  
**District #1**



I was raised outside of Greybull on the Horton Farm. My husband Dean and I reside near Otto, where we raise a small herd of cattle and two fantastic young men. I have lived in this area for most of my life, because there is no better place to raise a family. I have a Bachelor's degree in finance from Drake University and a Master's degree from UW. I worked as an agriculture loan officer for ten years and I am currently the business manager for BHC School District #3 in Greybull.

Like most of you, I enjoy the beauty and calmness of the Big Horn Basin. I want to preserve what we have, but work to position us to take advantage of opportunities that we can all benefit from. I want to be a part of an organization that will continue to create chances for our families to return home or simply remain here and live quality lives.

Some of the biggest challenges I see facing the electric industry are the demand that is being put on the electric system with the ever-increasing amount of EV's, data centers, and technology growth. In addition, increased costs are a factor as we try to keep electricity affordable for all of our members while also ensuring that the cooperative remains stable and well positioned for future opportunities and advancements. I feel environmental regulation and the push for clean energy make this more difficult.

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As the needs of our members change, I hope our cooperative can be there to help provide the best options. We must be striving for energy efficiency that ultimately benefits our members, but not create a situation that makes our electricity unaffordable, therefore driving members to alternative resources

**John Fernandez**  
**District #4**



My name is John Fernandez, I live on the Lower Greybull and have called Meeteetse home for 66 years. I was raised on the family ranch and learned to work hard, preserve what you have and aspire for more.

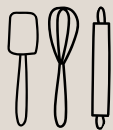
I graduated from Meeteetse and received my associates from Northwest College. After graduating I moved to Evanston, Wyoming and worked for Amoco Pipeline Company for ten years. Due to my father's health, I came back to Meeteetse to work on the ranch. As my parents made the difficult decision to retire and sell the ranch, I had a

wonderful opportunity to join the Meeteetse Recreation District. After 30 years with the district, I retired in 2019. I have served on many boards in my career, the Meeteetse Community Joint Powers, Meeteetse Youth Work Program, Park County Recreation Board and the Meeteetse Community Development Board.

In 2020 when District 4 elections came up for the Big Horn REA Board of Directors I was elected to represent the community of Meeteetse. I have been honored to have served on the Board of Directors for the past six years.

I ask for your vote to continue to represent District 4 and the community of Meeteetse on the Big Horn REA Board of Directors. I will do everything I can to ensure that we provide reliability and affordability to our membership. I have attended many local, state, and national conferences, and legislative meetings to educate myself on what we need to do for our sustainability in providing electricity to our customers. I have completed my CCD, and BLC required courses of the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association, and I continue to maintain the highest level, Director Gold Credential.

In closing, I ask for your vote to serve three more years on the Big Horn REA Board of Directors and represent District 4.



# Recipe

• made with love •

Name of the dish

Yummy Potatoes  
by Dotti Brown

## Ingredients

- 8-10 potatoes cooked & cubed
- 1 C sour cream
- 1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1 tsp onion salt
- ½ C margarine
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- paprika

## Directions

- Mix spices, cream cheese & sour cream, gradually add potatoes.
- Put in 2-quart casserole dish. Dot with margarine and sprinkle with paprika.
- Refrigerate overnight.
- Bring to room temperature and bake at 300° for 20 minutes.



# 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](mailto: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

John Joyce, President  
Manderson: 568-2514  
[jjoyce56@gmail.com](mailto:jjoyce56@gmail.com)

Willie Bridges, Vice President  
Cowley: 548-2545  
[willieb@pryormtneng.com](mailto:willieb@pryormtneng.com)

John Fernandez, Secretary  
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Sara Schlattmann, Treasurer  
Otto: 921-2024  
[hortonwyo@gmail.com](mailto:hortonwyo@gmail.com)

Mike Miller, Director  
Greybull: 272-8241  
[michael.miller2522@gmail.com](mailto:michael.miller2522@gmail.com)

## FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

Call the office number: ANYTIME  
(307) 568-2419 of 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).



Big Horn Rural  
Electric Company

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 270, Basin, WY 82410  
(307) 568-2419

FAX (307) 568-2402  
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[bhrec@bighornrea.com](http://bhrec@bighornrea.com)  
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### Staff and Crew

Dotti Brown  
Rusty Burden  
Stacy Cortez  
Michael Flores  
Clint Getzfreid  
Todd Herman  
Carrie Hunt

Jazmin Irvine  
Wade Koehn  
Anthony Nelson  
Bill Phillips  
Tristen Snyder  
Greg Tharp  
Justin Workman

Manager: Jeff Pillow  
(307) 272-0748  
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### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:00am-5:30pm

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



 [BigHornRuralElectric](https://www.facebook.com/BigHornRuralElectric)