



BIG FLAT NEWS



March 2024

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AS GRADUATION APPROACHES REMEMBER ELECTRIC CO-OPS HAVE CAREER OPTIONS

COLUMN BY **GRETCHEN BOARDMAN** | BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GENERAL MANAGER

AS I sat down to start writing, I thought, "I hope our members share it with their kids, grandkids, neighbors or any other young people who are wondering what to do as graduation approaches."



Graduation from high school is a pivotal part of a young person's life. So many decisions to make, so many friends parting ways. Do you go to college? Do you go to a trade school? Do you get a job? Do you get married? It can be rather overwhelming to say the least.

Guess what? The decision you make when you turn that tassel on your cap is just one small step into many other opportunities. You may change

your mind and do something completely different and that is OK.

Being part of an electric cooperative has changed my life. The cooperative has opened my eyes to so many things I didn't even know could happen. Did I think that would happen when I was 18 and walking down the Malta High School gym in my cap and gown, heck no. The possibilities are endless in the cooperative world. In fact, there are so many jobs open across the country, and electric cooperatives are no different.

Have you ever thought about being a lineman? Work as an engineer? Be a receptionist, accountant or human

resources? A meter technician? Cooperatives offer all these positions and so much more. These are outstanding jobs with excellent pay and benefits, but more importantly these are jobs that are rewarding and can develop a family-friendly, work-based environment. If any of these jobs sound like something you would like to learn about, contact our office. I would love to talk to you. We love having local students stay local!

Don't forget Big Flat Electric offers scholarships for graduating seniors and Trade School scholarships for any graduate or person attending a school studying a trade at any age. We have forms in our office, with your guidance counselor and on our website. Applications are due April 1. RM

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Mountain Thyme

Homegrown Zortman business offers healing salves, eggs and more

By **SHAWNA MYERS**

LIVING in the rural community of Zortman, Wendy Simanton operates Mountain Thyme Homestead, which allows her to do what she most enjoys. Most of which includes making healing salves, raising chickens, selling eggs, gardening, canning and making mittens in the fall.

A few years back Wendy developed a severe rash on her wrists and could not get rid of it no matter what she tried. Finally, when talking with Megan Newman of Malta, Wendy got a recipe for a natural healing salve, and it worked to clear up her rash.

After some tweaking to Wendy's liking, she and her family used this salve for burns, rashes and other skin conditions. Her healing salve business blossomed from there.

Along with the healing salve, Wendy also makes lip balm and sugar scrubs, which are all made with natural/organic materials.

I know from firsthand experience how well her healing salve works. Several years ago, my son received an extremely bad rope burn in the crease of his elbow, and after applying this salve daily and keeping it wrapped, it was cleared up in less than a week.

Chickens, or "the girls" as Wendy calls them, keep her in the egg business. She originally was going to only have six or seven chickens, but now owns 17 and has eggs for sale at \$4 a dozen. Her husband, Steve, built a heated coop with a covered run out the back, which then has access to a pen that has an electric fence around it to keep other critters away from "the girls".

Living in Zortman's laid-back lifestyle and her deep interest in canning, led Wendy to take up gardening. In



Wendy Simanton shows off some of the items she has for sale at Mountain Thyme Homestead in Zortman. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**

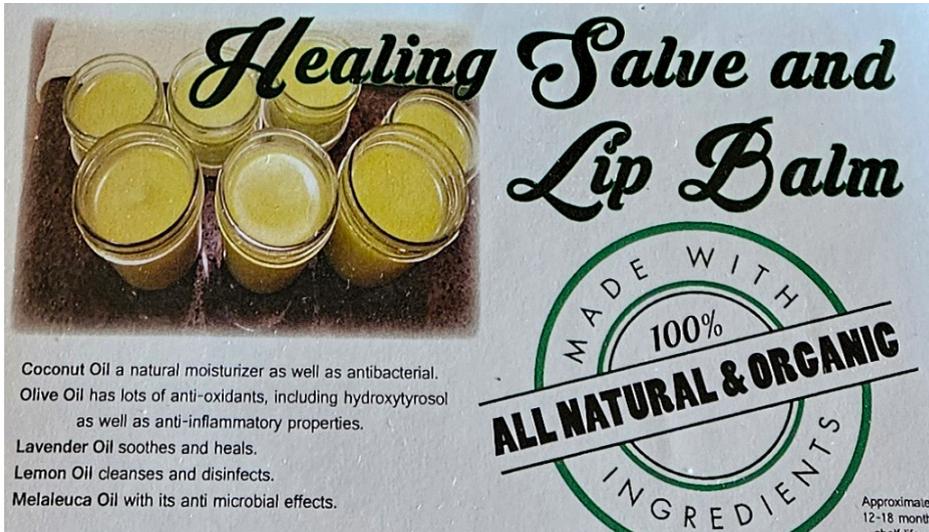
BUSINESS in FOCUS

If you know or have a business that you would like featured in our newsletter, please contact Shawna at (406) 654-2040 or shawna@bigflatelectric.com

RIGHT: Wendy Simanton collects some eggs in her heated chicken coop. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



Homestead



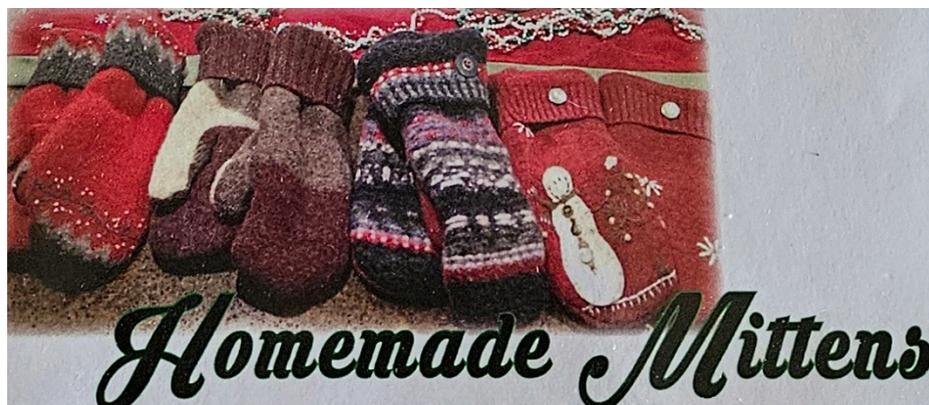
time, people would bring her fruit and empty canning jars. Wendy would in turn can jellies and give half of the batch to the person that brought her the fruit and jars. She also makes pickles and cans applesauce and peaches, among other things for her family.

When fall and winter set in, and the gardening season comes to an end, Wendy pulls out her sewing machine to make mittens. She keeps an eye out for old sweaters, preferably wool, but if they are a heavy material, she will use them. Wendy thinks it is a great find when she runs across Christmas sweaters, as they make cute mittens. Keep these in mind for those cold winter

days, or if you have old wool or heavy sweaters that you no longer need, give her a call.

Lastly, if you're looking for a place to stay, Steve and Wendy own a house in Malta registered on the Airbnb website. Their daughter Jenifer Anderson manages the home, and will be happy to help with you or relatives/friends stay in Malta.

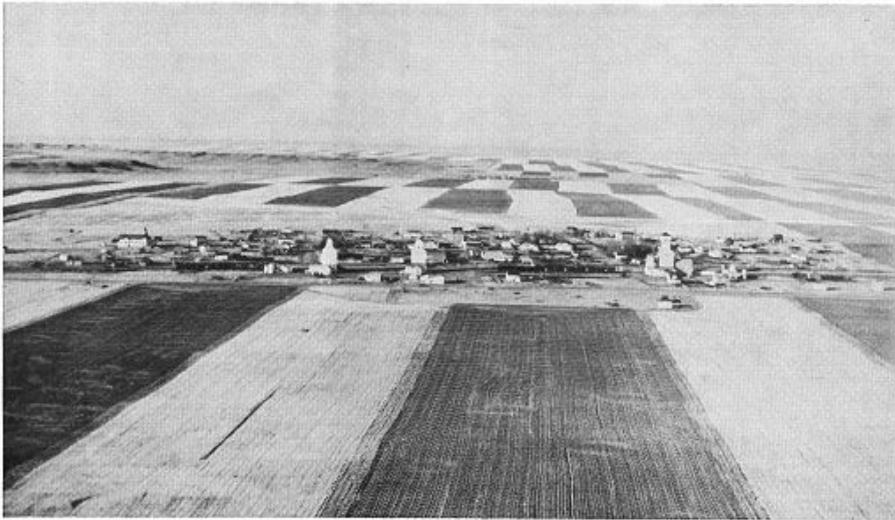
Whether it be skin care, eggs, jellies, or mittens, keep Mountain Thyme Homestead and Wendy in mind. She can be reached on Mountain Thyme Homestead's Facebook page, or by phone at (406) 673-3112. She will gladly visit with you about all of her products. RM



PHOTOS BY LEIF SORENSEN
BIG FLAT ELECTRIC LINEMAN



FROM MARCH 1964: BFEC NEWSLETTER

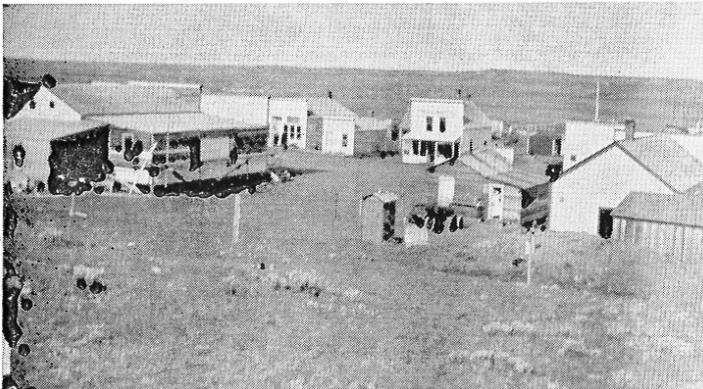


Town of Turner Celebrates 52 Years of Existence

The town of Turner is the center of a huge wheat producing area, the Big Flat, where alternate strips of grain or stubble and summer fallow checkerboard thousands of surrounding acres.



Big Flat customers are served by an automatic telephone exchange of the Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association.



The original town of Turner was established in 1912 with a general store owned and operated by H. C. Turner, one of the first settlers in the area.



The Turner Lutheran church, one of the first established in the area.

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