



BIG FLAT NEWS



April 2025

www.bigflatelectric.com

LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and powerlines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable and our communities connected.

Big Flat Electric crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times



Big Flat Electric Cooperative lineworkers: From left: Nathan Veit, Joe Hould, Ross Hasler, Leif Sorensen and Erik Simanton. Not pictured: Brenden Johnson.

of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged powerlines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Big Flat Electric lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding prin-

ciples, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life. RM

Big Flat Electric donates to pool fundraising effort

Big Flat Electric is proud to support our community with a \$2,000 donation to the Hi-Line Future Foundation City of Malta Pool Fundraising Campaign. Our power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, through its member donation program, graciously matched our donation with an additional \$2,000 to the campaign. Both organizations strongly believe in supporting our members and the communities we live in and serve. RM

Hi-Line Future Foundation Board Members Yavon Pekovitch and Ashley Stuart, and Big Flat Electric Board President Alan Wasson. 



Five basic rules for ladder safety

1. Use the right ladder for the job

It is important to choose a ladder that has the proper load capacity for the job. Consider your own weight as well as the weight of your equipment, tools and materials. The ladder must be long enough to work from without using the top 3 feet.

2. Inspect the ladder before and after use

Before use:

- Check the ladder's stability.
- Ensure that all screws, bolts and hinges are tight, and that the base of the ladder is secure.
- Look for loose or damaged rungs, steps, side rails, supports and any other structural damage.
- Check for any dirt, grease or paint that could cause slips and falls.
- Remove ladders with structural damage from service.
- Your ladder should not be in close proximity to electrical wiring.

After use:

- Check for any new structural damage to the steps, side rails, rungs and supports.
- Check for any bends and any loosened screws, hinges and bolts.
- Recheck the ladder's stability.

3. Set the ladder up correctly

Ladder placement is important. When using a portable ladder, make sure it is placed on a level surface and that it has non-slip base pads. Protect the base of the ladder with a barricade in high-traffic areas. Be sure to lock or block any nearby doors



that open toward you. If you're using a stepladder, ensure that it is fully open before use.

A straight ladder should be placed at a four-to-one ratio, which means that the base should be 1 foot away from the wall or vertical surface for every 4 feet of height to the point of support. When climbing onto a roof or platform from a ladder, the ladder must extend at least 3 feet above the edge and be tied off at the top.

4. Climb and descend the ladder with caution

Stay near the middle and face the ladder while holding onto the side rails with at least one hand when climbing or descending. Carry your tools on a belt or hoist, and always keep at least three limbs on the ladder. Look for overhead powerlines before handling or climbing a ladder.

5. Use common sense when using a ladder

- Do not lean outside the ladder rails.
- Keep the ladder and the surrounding area free of clutter.
- Never use a ladder for something other than its intended purpose. Never use a ladder horizontally like a platform.
- Do not carry loads that prevent using at least one hand on the ladder.
- Do not stand on the top step or the top cap, and do not overload your ladder.
- Do not place a ladder on boxes, barrels or other unstable bases.
- Do not move or shift a ladder with a person or equipment on the ladder. RM

HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL DAY

✱April 23, 2025✱



Kari Hammond

Shawna Myers

Debbie Kindle

Whoever says nothing surprises them
should try working at our office.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- **Find us on Facebook** under Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- **Visit our website** at www.bigflatelectric.com.
- **Sign up for budget billing** and/or ACH (auto payments) by calling our office.
- **Bills** are generated on the 1st working day of each month and are due on the 20th of each month.
- **Bills that are 60 days in arrears are subject to disconnect.** Once disconnected, a reconnect fee will be charged. The bill will then have to be paid in full to be reconnected.
- **We have a secure, automated toll-free phone number** for members making payments by credit card and/or bank account: 1-844-968-1965. You will need to have your account number and/or phone number that is on file with our office to access the automated system.
- **Take control of your electric account with SmartHub.** You can pay your bills; set up and cancel reoccurring payments; set up notifications; obtain duplicates of your bills; and view your monthly and yearly usage, all at your fingertips. Visit our website: www.bigflatelectric.com or download the SmartHub app from your Play Store on Android or the App Store on Apple devices.
- New service and service change quotes are only **valid for 30 days**.



We Are

HIRING

-Journeyman or Apprentice Lineworker-

QUALIFICATIONS :

- Possess a positive attitude and work ethic
- Committed to safety and service to cooperative members
- Completion of a certified line school and/or a certified journeyman / lineworker apprentice training program.

For more information and a complete
job description, visit our website:
www.bigflatelectric.com

SEND YOUR COVER
LETTER, RESUME AND
APPLICATION TO:

PO Box 229 Malta, MT 59538
or email: kari@bigflatelectric.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

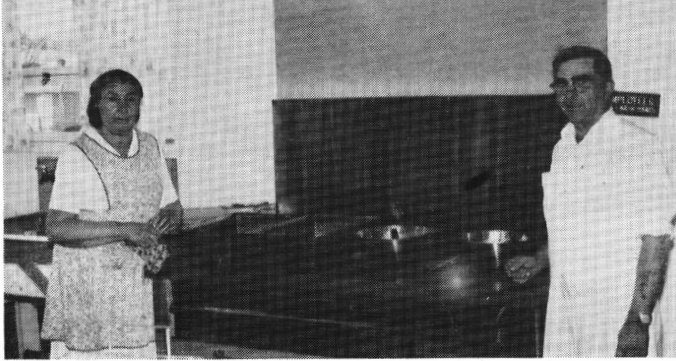
“Life is like riding
a bicycle. To keep
your BALANCE, you
must keep moving.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN

FROM APRIL 1966: BFEC NEWSLETTER

All-Electric School Kitchens In Big Flat Co-op. System

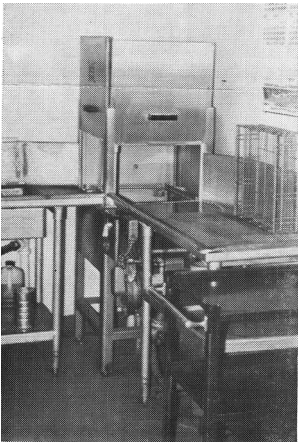
The cooks and helpers of the Hays and Lodgepole Public Schools state that a big boost in an efficient and healthy hot lunch program is the all electric, commercial equipment used in the preparation of meals and after dinner clean up.



Hays Cook — Clemence Gardipee and assistant cook, Ben Albertson standing near electric range.



Lodgepole custodian, Gerald Main; cook's helper, Dora Helgeson and Mrs. Beulah Kirkaldie, cook.



Commercial type dishwasher as used in both schools.



Large electric commercial ranges used in the Lodgepole and Hays Schools.

Along Our Lines

APRIL 1966 – BFEC Newsletter

- Nina Andres has sold her farm to Ralph Nace of Turner. Nina is making her home in Malta at the present time.
- The construction of the new home for Mt. and Mrs. Leo Kinshella and family has been started in Whitewater.
- Mr. and Mrs. Art Solbert are new consumers on our lines. The newly married couple have a trailer home on the William Dorn place north of Wagner.
- Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Morris have sold their farm near Dodson to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Booth of Wagner. The Morris's will move to Malta to make their home

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