



BIG FLAT NEWS



July 2026

www.bigflatelectric.com

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Big Flat Electric welcomes our new Member Services/Billing Clerk Kate Emond. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**

Kate Emond JOINS BIG FLAT ELECTRIC

BIG Flat Electric Cooperative would like to welcome Kate Emond to our work family as the member services / billing clerk. Kate came to us from Sheridan, WY, where she was employed as a design engineer for an aerospace company.

Kate's husband, Dennis "Denny" is employed with MDU as the district representative, which brought them back to Malta. Kate says it is nice to be back home as it allows them to spend time with their families. Denny and Kate have three boys, all of whom live in Sheridan, WY.

There are too many to mention, but art is one of Kate's biggest hobbies. It can be anything from creating metal sculptures to sewing projects. She is an outdoors person and enjoys hiking, biking, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Once again, welcome Kate to Big Flat Electric. 



(L-R): NWPPA 2026-2027 Board Officers Jonathan Dahl, Libby Calnon, Gretchen Boardman, Rachel Morse and Bill Swick.

BFEC GM Boardman elected S/T of NWPPA

BIG Flat Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate General Manager Gretchen Boardman on her election as secretary/treasurer of the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) Board of Trustees. Gretchen was elected to the position during the NWPPA Annual Business Meeting held in Spokane, Washington, on May 20.

NWPPA is a regional association representing more than 150 customer-owned utilities across the western U.S. and Canada. The organization is governed by a 42-member Board of Trustees comprised of representatives from member utilities and associate member advisors.



■ FINANCIAL WELLNESS TIP

Summer spending without the sizzle

AS July heats up, so can your spending. Summer activities, vacations and home cooling costs may lead to budget burnout. Instead of letting your finances melt away, use this season to strengthen your financial foundation.

We suggest establishing a dedicated “summer fund” for seasonal activities. By setting aside specific amounts for barbecues, day trips and energy bills, you might be able to enjoy summer without the financial hangover.

You may want to take advantage of seasonal opportunities: local libraries offer free summer reading programs, and community centers frequently host events at no charge.

Consider a “financial cooldown” by

evaluating subscription services you use less during the outdoor months. Could you temporarily pause streaming services while you’re enjoying the sunshine?

Energy costs typically peak in July. Simple adjustments such as using fans, closing blinds during peak-sun hours, and grilling outside instead of heating your kitchen can help reduce utility bills.

Enjoy your summer while keeping your financial future bright! 

This financial wellness tip is provided by Homestead Advisers, a financial services company established over 30 years ago to help meet the investment needs of communities within the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) family.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time — like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven — can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

Source: *energy.gov*



KEY ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL - MAY INCLUDE:

- **Safety Training:** Big Flat Electric’s monthly safety training is now being presented by Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association.
- **New services:** The line crew has remained busy with several new service installations throughout the system.
- **BFEC Community Outreach:** Community outreach efforts continued during the month. Debbie Kindle and Leif Sorensen attended the Fort Belknap Career Fair, while Kari Elletson, Leif Sorensen, Logan Sims and Hunter Goodman participated in Malta High School Career Day to promote careers in the electric utility industry.
- **Outage Reporting:** The cooperative is moving forward with implementing a new outage reporting process through Basin Electric’s SRS program. To allow our software to communicate with Basin’s system, Big Flat Electric will need to implement NISC’s multi-speak platform.
- **Pole Testing Machine:** IML will be



visiting Big Flat Electric to perform repairs on the pole-testing machine and provide pole-testing training for our linemen.

- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Several fleet vehicles required maintenance during the month. Truck 3 was sent to Glasgow for engine work, Truck 7 was placed in the shop to address an oil leak, and Truck 10 required repairs for parking brake issues. Ultimately, Truck 3 was replaced due to a failed engine. The replacement truck has arrived, and the utility box is currently being transferred from the old vehicle to the new one.
- **Warehouse:** The warehouse materials

and shelving have been moved, and the building cleaned. The facility is now ready for insulation and heating installation.

- **ROW:** Shawna continues to work on renewing the cooperative’s Bureau of Land Management rights-of-way.
- **FEMA:** Kari continues efforts with the Montana DES field representative regarding the December windstorm FEMA event. The cooperative expects to receive FEMA reimbursement for a portion of the storm related damage and repairs.
- **New Bill:** The new bill format was released on May 1.
- **Building Repairs:** Repairs were made to one of the large garage doors at the headquarters building.
- **New Hire:** Kate Emond was hired for the office assistant/member services/Billing position. She began employment on June 1.
- **Federated:** Federated Insurance conducted its annual review of claims and losses with cooperative management on May 12.

A DAY AT THE POOL, ON US!

Join us for Cooperative Pool Day!

**Enjoy FREE swimming and a
treat, courtesy of your local
Cooperatives!**

Harlem Pool, July 8th, 1-5pm

Malta Pool, July 13th, 1-5pm

sponsored by:



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UPDATES FROM NRECA

Legislative Conference Recap

More than 1,500 electric co-op leaders from around the country attended NRECA's 2026 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. This year's conference focused on four key issues:

- Streamlining the federal permitting process.
- Mitigating the risk of wildfires.
- Expediting disaster relief from the FEMA.
- Increasing funding for the RUS Electric Loan Program.

Co-op leaders heard from members of Congress and federal agency officials including Katherine Scarlett, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; Rural Utilities Service Administrator Karl Elmschaeuser; Rep. Jeff Hurd, R-Colo.; and Rep. Julie Fedorchak, R-N.D. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and meet with their members of Congress.

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**.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**TWO THINGS TO MAKE
YOUR DAY BETTER**
**1. DO NOT WATCH
THE NEWS.**
**2. STAY OFF THE
BATHROOM SCALES.**

FROM JULY 1966: *BFEC NEWSLETTER**Along Our Lines*

July 1966 – BFEC Newsletter

• **Accidents Do Happen**

On June 21 a pole broke off at the North Harlem Colony when hit by machinery working in the field where the pole was located. Power was off for approximately three hours.

• Early on June 22 a pole was hit by a pickup and broke off near the Hogeland road. Again, power was off while the pole was being replaced.

• At approximately 5:00a.m., June 23, a spray plane flew into the line near Kegal's at Turner. Outage was reported shortly after 8:00 a.m., but to locate the trouble, the line had to be patrolled, therefore, the power was off in the vicinity for nearly six hours.

• A twister destroyed the new pole barn on the Harlan Krass place near Hogeland recently.

• Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the bunkhouse on the Frank Lock ranch near the Missouri River on the evening of July 2.

• Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Harmon are vacationing in the state of Washington.

• Forty firemen, Boy scouts, and Community leaders attended the safety class on June 9 at the Malta City Hall under the direction of William Bruckner, Safety Instructor, with the Montana Associated Utilities. This safety class was sponsored by Big Flat Electric.

STATEMENT OF CONSUMER'S
CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

Total Credits Prior Years	Date	CURRENT YEAR		Tot. Cr. To Date
		Tot. Billing	Cap. Cr.	
\$136.34	12/31/65	\$167.70	\$8.39	\$144.73

Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P. O. Box H

MALTA, MONTANA

Above is a facsimile of a Capital Credit card like the one you will be receiving in a few days. Not to be confused with the billing statement, this is, rather, a notice of credit held in reserve for you.

Capital credits are the net margins earned by your cooperative. These credits are the equity you member-owners have in your cooperative.

Capital Credits are held in a reserve fund against a possible emergency — for example, storm or other disaster — until such time as our Board of Directors finds that payment can be made for a given period.

Your card shows the following information:

1. Total credits prior years — the amount of capital credits earned before 1965.

2. Date — the year being reported is 1965.

3. Total billing current year — the total amount spent by you in 1965 for electric service.

4. Credits Current Year — Amount of 1965 Capital Credits credited to your account.

5. Total credits to date — the new total of prior and current credits.

These credits are recorded to the person whose name appears on this card. When the time arrives that they are payable, this person will be eligible for payment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1	Duane Klindworth
District 2	Alan Van Voast, Sec./Treasurer
District 3	Alan Wasson
District 4	Warren Morin
District 5	Roger Solberg, Vice President
District 6	Patty Quisno
District 7	Kevin Koss, President

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

SERVING BLAINE, PHILLIPS AND VALLEY COUNTIES

P.O. BOX 229 • MALTA, MT 59538 • WWW.BIGFLATELECTRIC.COM

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