



BIG FLAT NEWS



September 2026

www.bigflatelectric.com

JOIN US FOR BIG FLAT ELECTRIC CO-OP'S 79TH ANNUAL MEETING

MARK your calendars and make plans to join us for Big Flat Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 10, at the Malta High School Auditorium. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the business meeting starting promptly at 10 a.m.

Our Annual Meeting is one of our favorite opportunities each year to visit with our members, share what's happening at your cooperative, and look ahead to the future together. This year, your Board of Directors and Staff will provide updates on the cooperative's accomplishments, ongoing projects and future plans. We've had a great year, and we're committed to continuing to provide you with the safe, reliable and affordable electric service you depend on.

In addition to learning about your

cooperative, you'll have plenty of chances to win some great prizes! The Annual Meeting Jackpot has grown to \$1,000, but there's one important catch — you must be present to win! If the first name drawn isn't in attendance, members present will have opportunities to take home the \$1,000 jackpot. We'll also have a \$300 grand prize drawing, \$50 young member drawing, door prizes and beef and pork bundles.

Whether you come for the cooperative updates, the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, or the chance to win prizes we hope you'll make plans to attend.

Your participation is what makes our cooperative strong, and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 10, at the Malta High School Auditorium! RM

**BIG FLAT ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

79TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2026

MALTA HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

**REGISTRATION: 9 A.M.
MEETING: 10 A.M.**



BFEC warehouse renovation project is nearing completion

OUR warehouse project went into full swing in May. The Big Flat Electric Cooperative line crew spent several long days unloading inventory and moving shelving away from the walls scheduled for insulation. By June, the walls had been professionally sprayed and were ready for the shelving and inventory to be returned. RM

All the hard work and reorganization proved well worth the effort. The project provided an opportunity for the crew to review materials, remove obsolete items and better organize inventory. The warehouse is now in excellent condition, and installation of the new garage doors, walk-through doors and heating system is planned for the near future. RM

SEPTEMBER 2026

IN THE KNOW

HAPPENINGS AROUND BIG FLAT ELECTRIC

KEY ACTIVITIES FROM JUNE AND JULY INCLUDE;

- **Line Inspections:** Crew members continue to document line inspections. Erik has implemented a system for recording line inspections in the iVue mapwise software.
- **New Truck 3:** Earl Smith is installing the box and radio.
- **Staff Meetings:** Kari reviewed the purpose and goals of staff meetings as Kate attended her first meeting, and encouraged open communication and shared ideas amongst all employees.
- **SRS Dispatch:** BFEC submitted the procedures manual to Basin Electric as part of the SRS Dispatch services implementation. Basin Electric and NISC will coordinate the software conversions and notify us of the next steps.
- **Annual Meeting:** Planning and preparation are underway for our October 10th annual meeting. The nominating committee has been selected. The committee meeting is scheduled for September 3rd.
- **Annual Meeting Schedule:** Staff discussed the weekend annual meeting schedule. Employees expressed interest in a weekday meeting. A member survey may be considered after this year's meeting.
- **Pole Replacements:** The line crew continues replacing poles.
- **Pole Tester:** The pole tester has been sent to IML for repairs.
- **Planned Outage Notifications:** The office staff is working on developing a more effective process for notifying members about planned outages and improving communication.



POLE TOP RESCUE TRAINING:

Preparing for the unexpected

EVERY year, all Big Flat Electric Cooperative lineworkers participate in mandatory pole top rescue training. This annual training is required by OSHA, and is one of the most important safety exercises our crews complete.

While we are thankful that no lineworker at Big Flat Electric has ever had to perform a real pole top rescue, our crews train every year so they are prepared if that day ever comes.

During the exercise, a lineworker must quickly and safely rescue a simulated injured coworker who is suspended on a utility pole. The rescuer has **four minutes** to climb

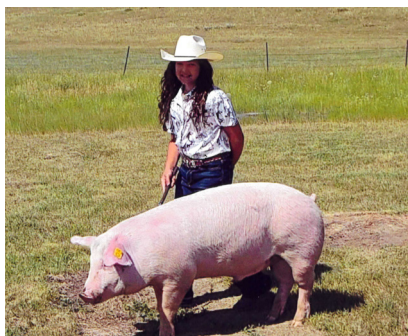
the pole, secure a hand line, safely lower the victim to the ground, and then be ready to begin CPR until emergency medical personnel arrive.

This training emphasizes the importance of teamwork, proper equipment and remaining calm under pressure. It also reinforces the skills that can make the difference in a life-threatening emergency.

Safety is the highest priority at Big Flat Electric Cooperative. Regular training like pole top rescue ensures our line crews are prepared to respond quickly and effectively while continuing to provide safe, reliable service to our members. RAM



Jayda Wyse shows her steer at the Phillips County Fair.



Taya Wiederrick shows her pig at the Phillips County Fair.

BFEC sponsoring regional 4-H programs, FFA youth

Big Flat Electric is a proud supporter of the Phillips County Fair held in August. Pictured above are the animals purchased by Big Flat Electric: Jayda Wyse shows her steer and Taya Wiederrick shows her pig at the Phillips County Fair.

A monetary donation was also made

to the Blaine County and Hays/Lodgepole 4-H programs. The co-op congratulates all the area 4-H and FFA youth for the hard work they put into their projects.

Beef and pork bundles will be given away at our annual meeting on October 10. 

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 re-occurring 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**.

FOR

Sale

BY BID

~ 2017 FORD F550 BUCKET TRUCK ~



149,700 miles.
In working condition, we just upgraded.
Motor has some oil leaks.



Boom and bucket are full functioning.



Sold as is.





Submit sealed bids to:
Big Flat Electric Co-op
PO Box 229
Malta, MT 59538



Bids need to be physically in the office
by 5:00 p.m. on
September 15, 2026.



Call 406-654-2040
for any questions.

★ ★ BIG FLAT ELECTRIC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID. ★ ★

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



When you are reluctant to
change, think of the beauty
of autumn

V V Brown

WORD SEARCH: FIND EACH STATE BELOW

E	N	U	J	T	E	N	C	T	E	M	S	H	A	C	K	S	Y	L	D
H	R	H	A	W	A	I	I	N	Q	E	M	G	R	Y	S	K	T	L	P
V	W	E	O	C	M	N	H	M	E	R	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	P	M
D	Z	N	Q	I	A	H	M	R	C	Q	A	M	M	Q	Q	I	Y	O	V
V	W	C	A	W	L	A	A	A	X	C	N	L	A	L	G	R	E	I	U
P	Y	V	O	I	R	W	M	E	S	A	K	F	A	R	M	I	C	D	P
Q	H	I	T	A	A	V	F	I	G	S	V	E	O	S	Y	X	Q	R	T
J	O	Q	A	L	I	I	M	I	S	U	A	E	N	Q	K	L	Q	Q	K
A	L	N	E	N	F	N	H	A	J	S	G	C	P	T	E	A	A	L	A
G	M	D	A	F	A	C	R	M	I	M	I	R	H	W	U	V	M	N	F
C	I	J	Z	L	I	I	F	O	I	N	M	S	S	U	X	C	A	R	D
O	N	O	B	M	A	O	D	G	F	S	E	A	S	I	S	I	K	Y	Q
L	N	T	H	A	K	B	G	N	G	I	S	L	L	I	S	E	K	Y	X
O	E	W	T	A	R	W	A	C	I	N	L	O	U	I	P	G	T	F	W
R	S	A	E	E	D	I	C	M	A	Y	D	A	U	C	W	P	M	T	Q
A	O	D	P	D	Q	I	Z	K	A	U	H	O	C	R	C	N	I	C	S
D	T	Q	E	R	S	B	R	O	F	N	L	U	H	R	I	R	U	U	J
O	A	O	R	G	J	A	O	W	N	K	A	N	S	A	S	O	H	H	K
Q	B	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	A	M	T	N	N	U	F	P	G	K
U	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	C	U	T	H	U	E	O	L	A	G	E

Alabama	Colorado	Hawaii	Kansas	Massachusetts
Alaska	Connecticut	Idaho	Kentucky	Michigan
Arizona	Delaware	Illinois	Louisiana	Minnesota
Arkansas	Florida	Indiana	Maine	Mississippi
California	Georgia	Iowa	Maryland	Missouri

FREE COMMUNITY ADVERTISING HERE

Big Flat Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer **FREE** advertising in our local newsletter for businesses, organizations and community events within our service area.

This is a great opportunity to share: Business promotions, community events, fundraisers, club or organization announcements, school and youth activities, classes, workshops, classified ads and special events.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please include: Your advertisement or event information, contact information and a logo or photo (optional).

Deadline: To be considered for publication, please submit your information by the 1st of the month for events/items for the following month.

Email: Kate@bigflatelectric.com

Phone: 406-654-2040

NOTE: Advertising is provided at no cost as a service to our local communities. Space is limited, and all submissions are subject to available space and editorial review.

Upcoming District Events:

- Saco Fun Days Sept. 4-6, Saco
- County line Youth Rodeo, Saco, Sept. 13

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

A Touchstone Energy™ Partner
The power of human connections

CONNECT WITH US
OPEN WEEKDAYS 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

333 S 7TH ST E
MALTA, MT 59538
(406) 654-2040

**AFTER HOURS
OUTAGE:**
(406) 654-7400

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
1-844-968-1965 or
bigflatelectric.com