

BIG FLAT NEWS

June 2021

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Big Flat Electric Scholarships awarded



Parker Mortenson
Malta High School

Pierce Mortenson and Parker Mortenson, sons of Paul and Rachel Mortenson of Dodson, each received Big Flat Electric's Trade School Scholarship of \$500.

Pierce and Parker will be attending MSU-Northern and pursuing degrees in Agriculture Operations Technology, Ag Mechanics Technology along with a Certificate in Welding.



Pierce Mortenson
Malta High School



Shayana Krass
Turner High School



Brooke Reed
Turner High School



Kia Wasson
Whitewater
High School



Beau Simonson
Whitewater
High School

Big Flat Electric wishes to congratulate all of our recent graduates. The following students each received a \$500 scholarship to help further their education: Shayana Krass, daughter of Loren and Jill Krass of Hogeland; Brooke Reed, daughter of Steve and Anita Reed of Turner; Beau Simonson, son of Matt and Heather Simonson of Loring; and Kia Wasson, daughter of TJ and Charlene Wasson of Whitewater.

Inside:

- ★ Safe DIY-ing
- ★ Are you ready for storm season?
- ★ Bill pay options

Practice safety when DIY-ing

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started!

Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

Start by selecting a designated work area. The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend. We know you're a pro but investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. (Ditch the sandals for this!)

Work slowly and clean as you go. When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results



Tackling a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying, but many of these projects can come with risks. Keep safety in mind as you take on any home improvements.

than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.

Be cautious with power tools. Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:

- ★ Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
- ★ Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- ★ Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where

electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.

- ★ If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- ★ Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
- ★ When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.

We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Now that summer is in full swing, we welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of our favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but Big Flat Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. Protect your family during major storms and outages.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers,



Beware of the dangers of gathering storms like this one on Sun Prairie south of Malta. Preparing ahead for an extended outage is always a good plan.

| Photo by Jenny Oxarart

bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small

generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Big Flat Electric's Facebook page for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Big Flat Electric we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

Make your Mark on Safety!

Call 811 before you dig.





BUILT by our community.
SHAPED by our community.
LED by our community.

**WE'RE PROUD TO
POWER YOUR LIFE.**

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AFTER HOURS ONLY OUTAGE

#

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DARREN DEMARAIS

Line

Superintendent...654-7261

Happy Father's Day!

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