

# BIG FLAT — NEWS —

March 2021

[www.bigflatelectric.com](http://www.bigflatelectric.com)

## Laci Maloney wins Youth Essay Contest



**Laci Maloney**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Big Flat Electric chose not to send participants to the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour this year. The tour was canceled last year due to Covid shutdowns. Although Big Flat Electric will not send anyone to Washington, D.C., the essay contest went on.

Laci Maloney earned the scholarship award for \$1000 for her essay on the topic: *“How has reliable electricity benefited you and your community through the COVID-19 pandemic?”* Laci is the daughter of Chris and Brenda Maloney and is currently a junior at Turner High School.

Here is an excerpt from her essay: *“The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone’s life in some type of way. I personally feel that without reliable electricity, our lives would be changed drastically. If we did not have reliable electricity, we would not have been able to continue schooling online this past spring. This could have led to being behind in the years ahead. Being able to connect with our teachers through live video and simple communications, such as email benefited me and my community. The pandemic has many uncertainties right now, but I am fortunate to count on reliable electricity.”*

Congratulations, Laci, on winning the essay scholarship.

## Inside:

- ★ Truck for bid
- ★ Alan Van Voast attains certification
- ★ Call 811 for safe digging

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 14!**  
Set your clocks forward by one hour.



# Alan Van Voast NRECA CCD



**Alan Van Voast**

Alan Van Voast, Big Flat Electric board member, recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An every-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Big Flat Electric has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of our consumer-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director program requires attendance and understanding of the basics of these five courses:

- ◆ Director Duties and Liabilities
- ◆ Understanding the Electric Business
- ◆ Board Operations and Process
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Financial Decision Making.

Congratulations to Alan Van Voast for joining our other Big Flat Electric directors in achieving this milestone.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



# Three electrifying kitchen appliances to save time and energy

By Abby Berry

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:



**Air Fryers** are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food--this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air

fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200+.

**Electric griddles** have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once--like a "one-pan" meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.

Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a **Pizza Maker** for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multi-functional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150+ online or at your local retailer.

These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen.

Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy.



*Electric griddles consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.*



*Pizza makers are compact and inexpensive, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Photo Credits: Hamilton Beach*

# Scholarship Applications Available

—Big Flat Electric area high school graduating students may apply for a **\$500 Scholarship**. Applications can be found at our headquarters in Malta, on [bigflatelectric.com](http://bigflatelectric.com) and at the local school's guidance counselor office.

—**The Trade School Scholarship** is being offered from Big Flat Electric. Up to \$1,000 will be given to applicants who are attending or plan to attend a trade school. This scholarship is open to students of any age.

Applications are available online or at Big Flat Electric's office. Applications are due in the Big Flat office by April 2, 2021.

## FOR SALE BY BID

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. March 17, 2021.

This does not mean postmarked by March 17. If you mail a bid you may want to verify that it is in the office by that date. Call 654-2040 for any questions.

Big Flat Electric reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.



-2013 Ford F250 Super Duty XLT  
-164,000 miles  
-Grill guard and running boards  
-Sold as is.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager Gretchen Boardman

Line Supt Darren Demarais 654-7261

## CONNECT WITH US

OPEN WEEKDAYS 8 AM - 5 PM

333 S 7TH ST W

MALTA, MT 59538

(406) 654-2040

AFTER HOURS OUTAGE: 654-7400

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