

Sun River Electric Cooperative

Ripples



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
 Phone Numbers: 406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop
 After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
 please use: 467-2526 or 467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

SREC WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY MAY 28 IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 2018

Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Highlights

The 81st Sun River Electric Cooperative (SREC) Annual Meeting was held at the Fairfield Community Hall on March 30. A hot roast beef sandwich dinner with all the fixings was prepared by the Cozy Corner Café of Fairfield. The Fairfield High School Spanish Club and SREC linemen served the sit-down dinner to members, with the cleanup done by the Simms High School girls basketball team. The Fairfield High School Music Department entertained the crowd before the business meeting, and Katrina Pearson sang the national anthem.

President John Burgmaier discussed the capital credit retirement for the years 1990 and 1991, totaling \$606,791. He also touched on the Workers' Compensation Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) compensation for the 2016 storm. President Burgmaier also recognized Trustee Roberta Rohrer for many years of service to Sun River Electric, Central Montana Electric Power and Basin Electric Power cooperatives' boards.

President Burgmaier recognized the employees receiving years of service awards: Mike Faith, meter tech, for 10 years; Manager Scott Odegard for 20 years; and Shelley Batson, senior billing/general ledger clerk, for 30 years. They each received an honorary plaque. President Burgmaier also thanked the rest of the employees for their service and congratulated Sun



Sun River Electric Cooperative President John Burgmaier speaks at the annual meeting.

River Electric employees for having worked 16 years without a lost-time accident.

Melissa Soldano of Douglas Wilson and Company shared the 2017 audit report. Sun River Electric was again granted an unmodified opinion, which is the highest standard obtainable.

Manager Odegard was unable to attend, and his manager's report was presented by Finance/Administration Manager Leona Huidekoper. The report focused on rates, reliability and upcoming cost-saving programs. The average outage time in the past year was 56 minutes, which was under the three-hour target. In 2017, there was not a rate increase, just a rate change with the demand and distribution charges. Ms. Huidekoper pointed out the ability through SmartHub to monitor peak demand. She also announced future programs to give members water heater timers for use in reducing their peak demand, and an electric heat rate.

The trustee election was conducted by legal counsel Max

Continued on page 5

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 4

Davis. Trustee John Burgmaier from District 3 and Trustee Roberta Rohrer from District 4 were re-elected by unanimous ballot. In District 5, incumbent Randy Parker defeated Chris Ostberg.

Guest speakers Gary Wiens, assistant general manager of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, and Doug Hardy, CEO of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (CMEPC) addressed the membership. Wiens discussed the mussel infestation problem, preventive solution plans for evasive mussels and how these programs are being funded. On the federal level, Wiens discussed simplifying legislation for clearing rights-of-way on federal land. Hardy discussed the formation of CMEPC, stating that Sun River Electric was one of the original co-ops to join Central Montana. He explained the benefits of coopera-

tives working together to provide better rates to consumers.

Sabelle Erickson, the 2017 SREC Washington, D.C., Youth Tour representative, spoke about her experiences learning about cooperatives, touring the nation's capital, and meeting other Youth Tour participants from all over the United States.

The Sun River Historical Society presented Sun River Electric with an appreciation plaque for help with the Fort Shaw military cemetery project.

A variety of door prizes provided by cooperative suppliers and by SREC were won by attending members. Larry Johnston of the Fairfield area was the lucky grand prize winner of \$100 cash.

Thank you to all of our members who came to share the day. Sun River Electric Cooperative cannot conduct our business without you, our member/owners, attending the annual meeting. 336245



Sabelle Erickson, 2017 Washington Youth Tour essay winner, addresses the members at the annual meeting.

Swap Column

FOR SALE: Large Avalon (Olympic) wood stove, brass legs, brass & etched glass door, new, (still in box), replacement blower included, cost \$279. Brass ash bucket, wood rack & accessories. All in very good condition, \$1,500. Holly Ward, 467-2162.

FREE: 1975 – 1990 *Western Horseman* magazines, pristine condition. Also some from the 1950's; *Equus Magazine* volume 1-22 plus more. Starts in 1977. Kerry Bouchard, 562-3520.

FOR SALE: Roll-away cot & mattress, perfect for a cabin or company, \$20. Kerry Bouchard, 562-3520.

FOR SALE: One 37" vanity top

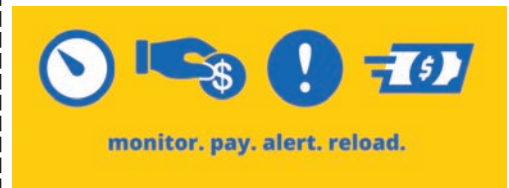
with Kohler sink & faucet. Includes back-splash & side-splash; one casement window, double pane, 4'x5' wide. Includes double-cell honeycomb blind. Tim Nett, 466-5488.

FOR SALE: Steel water tank, (will fit any pick-up), 280 gallons, 2" valve, \$160; Maytag heavy-duty gas clothes dryer, used 4 months, \$200. Brad Berthelson, 278-5877.

FOR SALE: 2 black Dexter cows & 2 yearling heifers. Pete Stokke, 965-3500 (leave message).

If you would like to place an advertisement in the *Ripples Swap* column, please contact Sun River Electric at 1-800-452-7516 or 467-2527, or email Kathy at kscott@sunriverelectric.coop by the first of the month.

Pay as you go with **prePAY** electricity from SREC. It is easy! Call SREC to get started.



Hidden numbers

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

Reminder: Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Board of Trustees

Officers

John Burgmaier, President406-463-2522
 Randy Parker, Vice President406-467-2974
 Roberta Rohrer,
 Secretary/Treasurer406-788-3960

Trustees

Russ Bloom406-431-0168
 Mitch Johnson406-467-2109
 Leonard Sivumaki406-264-5482
 Robert Pasha406-733-2028
 Scott Odegard, Manager.....406-467-2527

ALWAYS
 CALL
 BEFORE YOU
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