

# 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](http://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.

AUGUST 2019

## Plane Ride Reflections

By Nicholas Konen

As the plane begins its final descent into the Great Falls International Airport I look down at my homeland. The rolling fields of dryland are cut by the Missouri. The majestic Rockies rise in the west, and the dark clouds that the plane just passed through threaten a June thunderstorm. There are no beaches here or fancy malls, and the weather isn't always pleasant, but for me, this is home. The sight of the sun setting on my rural community gives me a feeling of joy to be home, but sadness that this trip of a lifetime has come to an end. The last several minutes of the plane ride give this small-town country boy a chance to reflect on the past week in Washington, D.C. with the Youth Tour. I think about the sights I saw and the relationships I made.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then what is a real-life experience worth? There is no way I could pick just one favorite place our group visited; I enjoyed every single stop, but some will stay with me more than others.

Every American has seen pictures of the White House. After this trip, I am able to say I have been inside it. Waiting in line and going through the tight security while the hot sun beat down on me was worth it once I walked through the door into a cool hall. The feeling inside was tranquil, and I was struck hard when I realized that I was walking where every president since John Adams had walked. The tour through was shorter than I expected, and I wish I would have

taken more time to soak it all in.

Another place that left a big impression on me was Arlington National Cemetery. Looking over the rows of white crosses and watching the changing of the guard made me ponder this nation's freedom and feel thankful for the people who died protecting it. Seeing these places and many more was worth every second because it gave me a deeper appreciation for this nation's history.

Although I immensely enjoyed the places that our tour took us, nothing that we saw compared to the friendships that I made on this trip. Not only did I make friends with others in my group, but I was able to connect with kids all the way from Pennsylvania to Texas. Even though we all

live thousands of miles away from each other, there were many things we could relate to. For example, many of the kids I met were involved in agriculture like me, and it was fascinating to learn how farms and ranches operate in their area. And it wasn't hard to find others who enjoy hunting and fishing, like I do. I'll never forget playing cards with a group from Minnesota or having Bible study at 11 p.m. with some Mississippi kids. Another highlight was the day we toured the Capitol and met with Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Representative Gianforte. It was refreshing to hear from them because it was evident that they care about our home state.

Ultimately this trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I walked where this nation's founding fathers walked and made friendships that inspired me.

*“To venture into the wilderness, one must see it, not as it is, but as it will be.”*

— Carl Becker



Nicholas Konen

But this would not have been possible if it were not for the Sun River Electric Cooperative. Even though I wasn't expecting to win the trip when I submitted the essay, I feel very blessed that I had this opportunity. This reminds me of how rural electric cooperatives have provided opportunities for millions of other Americans through electricity. Throughout the week, I found myself taking pictures of quotes I liked at the monuments and museums. One in particular that stood out to me was above room 143 in the Capitol; “To venture into the wilderness, one must see it, not as it is, but as it will be.” — Carl Becker.

This quote made me stop and realize that at one time much of America was essentially a dark wilderness, but thanks to forward-thinking men and women — and electric cooperatives — it is now home to grateful Americans like me.

# \$avings! New Option for Electric Heat

*The Sun River Electric Board has approved the new electric heat rate program*

Sun River Electric Cooperative (SREC) will be offering a new cost-saving rate for those who use electric heat as their primary heating source. The heat source can be an electric furnace, electric baseboard, electric boiler, or ground/air-source heat systems.

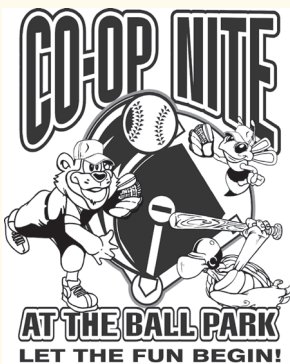
The new rate will be 3 cents per kilowatts per hour less than the resi-

dential kilowatt/hour rate. Depending on your heating type, the savings during the heating season (October – April) could range from 5 percent to 20 percent. Basin Electric Power Cooperative is the electric supplier behind this offering.

SREC will provide the meter and meter base, which must be mounted outside the house, there WILL NOT

be a second base meter charge for the second meter. The member is responsible for all the wiring, and inspection of the wiring will be done when the meter is placed.

For more details call the office or look on SREC's website: [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop).



Come join us for  
**CO-OP NIGHT at the VOYAGERS**

**August 23, 2019 at 7 p.m.**  
Centene Stadium, Great Falls

- 300 free kids T-shirts
- Goodie bags for the first 100 families through the door
- Prizes and on-field games between innings



For your free tickets call Sun River Electric at 467-2526 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

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## Swap Column

**FOR SALE:** 2 lots (50x140), 2-car garage (30x24) with wood stove, 1 shed, fenced backyard, dug out for footings for a house, town water, sewer and electricity available, great school and small-town living, 265 Harris Ave., Highwood, MT, contact for pictures. Bonnie Russell, (406)733-2115 or (928)247-3362 or highwood101@yahoo.com .

**FOR SALE:** Duck decoys, 3 dozen, oversize Herter's mallard decoys, \$50: Little Giant incubator with automatic egg turner, \$50. Bill Reiter, 467-3909.  
**FREE:** Wood chips. Gary, Sun River Electric, 467-2526.

**FOR SALE:** Swingset. Ken or Shirley Sheldon, 965-2269, if no answer, leave a message.

**FOR SALE:** 12 - steel corral panels, 10', \$25 each; 1 - round bale feeders, \$75 each; Poly-Tuf gray water tank for stock, \$50. George Chapel, 564-1471 or 467-3289.

**FOR SALE:** White Glasstite long box top, 72" x 98", excellent condition, \$200. Diane Bingham, 469-2250.

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

## REBATES

Remember that SREC has appliance and water-heater rebates. Go to [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop) for details.

