



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

August 2024



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

CEO MESSAGE

HCE Rate Increase



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

Increased costs for everyday items is a hot topic in today's world, and for good reason. With the rising cost of living and inflation, it's no surprise that Hill County Electric has been affected by these increases as well. HCE has managed to avoid a rate increase over the last 8 years, a feat that is almost unheard of in the current economic climate.

However, HCE has not been immune to the cost increases, and we must make a change to remain financially solid for our members today and our future members. The driving force behind the increase in electric rates is inflation and increased power costs. Inflation is the general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money. This means that as inflation

risers the cost of producing and delivering electricity also increases. This is because the price of materials, labor, and other resources needed to generate and distribute electricity also rises. As a result, electric companies, like ours, are forced to increase rates in order to cover these rising costs.

Inflation has been a major concern for many years and has only been exacerbated by the recent economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The electric rate increase is a result of inflation, increased energy costs and the rising cost of living. However, our cooperative business model, focus on energy efficiency, and strong relationship with our members has allowed us to postpone the rate increase until now. It is a reminder that, at the heart of it all, the cooperative business model is about serving the community and putting the needs of its members first.

HCE members can learn more about this change effective September 1st, 2024 by going to www.hcelectric.com



Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

Alice Bold shares her experience

My journey to Washington D.C. was incredible. I learned things about history that I did not know and got more in-depth information about parts of history that I thought I knew. The Youth Tour was full of memorable moments and experiences that opened my eyes to culture beyond rural Montana.

As I adventured through Washington D.C., I met people from across the United States. Tour participants traded state pins as an icebreaker. The pins collected are not only souvenirs but represent the friendships made.

My favorite site visit was the World War II Monument. The view was gorgeous, a waterfall was surrounded by stones that had all the states carved in them. We sat on the monument steps while observing the reflection pool of the Washington Monument.

Youth Tour to Washington D.C. continued

The week was full of sights, adventure, and food. The museums had amazing pictures and life-like statues to help visualize history. There were interactive simulators that made us feel like we were part of a historical event, and we ate chili at an iconic D.C. restaurant.

I will always remember the accents that people across the nation spoke. Some accents were more noticeable than others, my favorite was from Tennessee. I learned many people living in rural America have paved country roads and feel a bit sorry that they are missing the dust and mud experience of Montana's gravel roads. Also, people from Montana are some of the best dancers in the nation. We can line dance as well as swing dance, we were the only people, at least on the Youth Tour, who knew how to swing!

I recommend this trip to Montana kids who are interested in traveling and learning things about the history of America. Thank you to Hill County Electric for the opportunity.

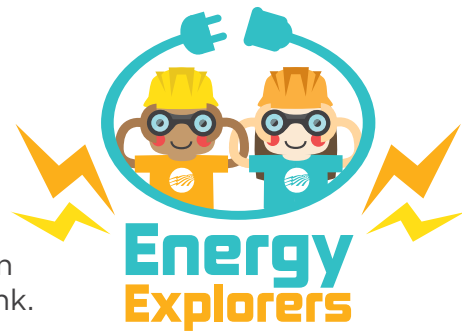


Parker Hansen's Experience

My name is Parker Hansen and I was fortunate to be chosen to represent Hill County Electric for the 2024 Montana DC Youth Tour, sponsored by the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association. As one of the thirty-two students representing Montana, I was excited to see Washington DC as I had never been there before and our itinerary was packed to the brim with all the must-see national monuments, landmarks, and attractions. From the minute we landed until the day we left, we got to experience so many fun things. A few of the monuments we visited were Martin Luther King, Jr, Jefferson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Some of my favorite parts of the trip were meeting our Congressional Delegates on Capitol Hill, going to the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum Center, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and getting a battlefield tour of Gettysburg. I also enjoyed the Spy Museum and attending a Major League Baseball game. Thanks to Hill County Electric and the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association I was able to explore and learn about Washington DC and our country's history. I appreciate Montana Electric Cooperatives Association and Hill County Electric for this memorable opportunity and amazing trip. I enjoyed every minute and can't wait to go back again soon. Thanks for the memories and the new friendships that will last a lifetime.

WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.



Psst! Check your work in the answer key.

1. When possible, use _____ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
2. If you hear _____ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
3. Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
4. All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept _____.
5. Never handle electrical devices if you are _____ from swimming or other water activities.

WORD BANK

thunder

wet

battery

dry

electrical



Answer Key: 1) battery 2) thunder 3) electrical 4) dry 5) wet

Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

**Denotes photo available on website*

1985 MacGreror Jetboat*

1985 MacGreror Jetboat, call 406.326.2211.

Sanger Speed Boat w/ trailer and more

Sanger Speed Boat with a 440 Chrysler engine. Includes trailer, water skis, life jackets, innertube and almost new paddle board. Asking \$4,000 for everything, call 406.378.2572.

2005 Cadillac Deville For Sale

2005 Cadillac Deville for sale, call 406.301.4035 for price.

John Deere 54-inch Mower

54-inch John Deere Mower, asking \$500. Call 406.378.3233.

2002 Hallmark 8ft overhead Popup Pickup Camper

2002 Hallmark 8ft overheard popup pickup camper. Electric jacks. Solar nice condition. Asking \$6,000. Call 406.759.5894 (leave message).

Misc Toys

15 ft. boat, motor & trailer; 2004 Harley Davidson Fat Boy; 2013 Harley Davidson v-Rod ;2012 Suzuki V-Strom. Call 406.399.4949

Brake light for a 2010 Ford Super Duty F350

For sale brake lights for a 2010 Ford Super Duty F350. (4) 5-inch aluminum rims for older Ford truck, 3 seats for custom Harley Softtail motorcycles 1989, 2007 and 2008. Call 406.654.1475 and please leave a message.

51-Foot Flex Coil Drill

51 ft Flex Coil Drill, no cart. Asking \$2,500. Call 406.376.3215.

Wanted To Buy

Wanted to buy - 1979 thru 1981 Chevy pickup truck. Running or not, but in repairable condition. Half or 3/4 ton. Manual tranny preferred. Call 406.932.5758.

KUBOTA Tractor Front Loader*

Model 3901, 2016. Only 83 hours- nearly new condition, always shedded. Includes rollbar with sun-roof and 4WD drive plus a Land Pride Quick-Hitch Box Scraper and Landscape Rake. \$22,000, text 406.949.3893.

Wanted Older UTV Side by Side

Wanted older Bush Hog UTV side by side running or not for parts. Call 406.231.8588.

2009 GMC 2500HD*

Duramax 130,000 miles, TDK bumper, bed liner, complete rubber floor, aftermarket wheels, more than I can list. Call 406.399.2803.

Motorized Tow Behind DR Rototiller

Like new DR 36" motorized pull behind rototiller, used less than 15 hours. Asking \$1,500. Call 406.378.3226.

Quick Release Towing System

Stow Master 5000 quick-release towing system. Asking \$225.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Walker Bay Boat

10-foot walker bay boat with rigid inflatable tubes, 6hp mercury, 4 cycler motor, includes trailer. Asking \$1,500.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Jeep Wrangler For Sale*

1997 Jeep Wrangler with 134,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. Call 406.366.0653.

F150 4x4 Parts Truck 85 ft.

It might be something minor, was running before they fixed fusible links, new coil, map sensor, voltage regulator, new tires and mags. \$1500 or best offer, call 406.357.5442.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.