



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

July 2025



1.877.394.7804  
hcelectric.com 

## CEO Message

### A Salute to Our Nation's Defenders



Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

At Hill County Electric, we take great pride in serving rural Montana - and in the values that hold our communities together: service, commitment, and resilience.

This year marks a historic milestone as the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps each celebrate their 250th anniversaries. It's an extraordinary moment to honor the legacy of those who have served and continue to serve in our nation's defense.

Many of our members - and employees - have ties to the military. Whether as veterans, active-duty service members, or proud family members, their stories are part of the fabric of our cooperative. We owe them our deepest gratitude not just for their service, but for the example they set in courage and community.

At its core, being a cooperative means putting others first. It's about neighbors helping neighbors, especially when times are tough. That same spirit is echoed in military service - where duty, sacrifice, and a deep sense of purpose guide every action. These are values we strive to reflect in how we serve you, our members, every day.

As we head into the summer season, filled with patriotic holidays and community gatherings, I encourage all of us to take a moment to recognize those in uniform—past and present. Their dedication has made it possible for us to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

**To all who have served: thank you. Hill County Electric salutes you and honors your commitment - not just this year, but always.**

**Semper Fi**

# Empowering Youth Through Safety Education

At Hill County Electric, safety is always our top priority - and that commitment extends beyond our daily operations. We're proud to have recently taken part in several impactful community safety events. Our team participated in the Hill County Employee Safety Day at the fairgrounds, gave a safety presentation at the Farmers Union Camp in Chester, and partnered with Triangle Communications for Youth Safety Day, bringing important safety information to students at two local schools.

## Youth Safety Day Highlight

This initiative aimed to equip young students with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate today's electrical and technological landscapes safely. Throughout the event, our employees led a series of interactive demonstrations and presentations, covering critical topics such as:

- **Call 811 Before You Dig:** Emphasizing the importance of contacting 811 prior to any digging projects to prevent damage to underground utilities and ensure community safety.
- **Interactive Locating Demonstration:** Offering hands-on experience with utility locating equipment, allowing students to understand how professionals detect and mark underground utilities.
- **Electrical Safety:** Educating students on the dangers of electricity, safe practices around electrical equipment, and how to respond in hazardous situations.
- **Understanding the Internet and Staying Safe Online:** Students explored the fundamentals of the internet, discovering how it connects computers worldwide. Emphasizing safety, the session highlighted the importance of protecting personal information online.

We were honored to lend a hand, share important lessons, and have a little fun along the way. It's just one more way we're working to keep our communities safe and informed - today and for the future



# Electrical Safety Tips

## Know before you dig: always call 811 before you dig

Before undertaking any digging project—be it installing fence posts, planting trees, or setting up new structures—it's crucial to call 811 at least 48 hours in advance. This free service connects you with local utility companies that will mark underground lines, helping you avoid accidental damage to electric, gas, water, or communication lines. Remember, even shallow digging can pose risks, so always call before you dig to ensure safety and prevent service disruptions.



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.  
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**



## Stay Put: always assume lines are live

If your equipment comes into contact with a power line, do not exit the vehicle. Staying inside is the safest option, as the equipment may be energized. Immediately call 911 and your electric utility for assistance, and warn others to keep a safe distance. Only exit the machinery if there's an immediate threat, such as a fire. In such cases, jump clear of the equipment without touching it and the ground simultaneously, landing with both feet together and shuffling away without lifting your feet to minimize the risk of electric shock.

## Look up and live

Always be aware of overhead power lines when operating equipment like ladders, augers, or irrigation systems. Maintain a minimum clearance of 10 feet from power lines to prevent accidental contact. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and carry long tools horizontally to reduce the risk of touching overhead lines. Regularly survey your property to identify and mark the locations of power lines, ensuring that everyone on the farm is informed and vigilant



## Plan Ahead



Before moving large equipment, plan routes that avoid overhead power lines. Consider the height of your machinery and the location of power lines to prevent accidents. If necessary, consult with your local electric utility to discuss safe travel paths or the possibility of temporarily de-energizing lines during critical operations. Proper planning helps ensure the safety of everyone on the farm and prevents costly damage to equipment and infrastructure.

# 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*

## **WANTED: Clamp bumper hitch.**

(VO type) with or without ball. For Shriner parade vehicle. Call (406) 390-3522.

## **Powder River Cattle Squeeze Chute**

Call 808.391.0766 for more information.

## **German Shepherd Puppies For Sale**

Two Female Black and Brown German Shepherd Puppies. Asking \$250. Call 406.326.2287.

## **Heavy Duty Car Dolley**

Hand-crafted heavy-duty car dolly, new tires and wheels, dexter axle, electric brakes. Asking \$300. Call 406.547.2184.

## **1993 Ford Explorer**

4 liter V-6, motor runs, good tires, needs transmission, clear title. Asking \$400 or best offer. Call 406.547.2184.

## **Cajun electric smoker**

Cajun electric smoker with timer, thermostat, burns pellets. Asking \$75, call 406.547.2184.

## **Mini Washing Machine For Sale**

Mini washing machine, capacity 1KA, B-Quick Bubbleator, portable, great for RV's or apartments. \$35. Call 406.547.2184.

## **Professional AG Lane Chicken Cages**

Asking \$800 call 406.945.2027 with questions.

## **Flexi-Coil Sprayer**

65XL Sprayer 130 ft booms, 1,000 gallon tanks, wind screens. \$750 or best offer, call 406.262.3969.

## **Sooner Aluminum 20 ft. Stock Trailer Gooseneck**

Asking \$9,500. Call 406.326.2284.

## **German Shepherd Puppy**

Black/Tan in color, Call 406.326.2287.

## **Barrett Cattle Trailer**

50 ft. Barrett Cattle Trailer. Asking \$10,000. Call 406.301.4035.

## **2021 Massimo 550 L Quad 4x4 EFI\***

Power steering, hand guards, 50-inch snowplow, winch, safety start, has reverse safety bell, parking brake, headlights and driving lights. Brake lights rear driving lights, two up seat, 145 miles with 16.7 hours, front and rear storage. Two-wheel and 4-wheel selector button, rear receiver hitch, liquid cooled, rear independent suspension, fixed issues with dash, new spark plug, fresh gas, checked all fluids and filters including coolant, battery checked out good. Asking \$5,995. Call 406.265.1735.

## **Love Seat and Couch**

Love seat and couch flower print, solid wood, make an offer and you haul. Call 406.932.4591.

## **12' Foot Dump Trailer with Split Seasoned Ash**

12' dump trailer of split seasoned ash, \$350. Delivered, not stacked. Call 406.561.6315 or email scleveland546@gmail.com.

## **Cattle Stock Trailer**

48 ft. (older but in good shape) asking \$10,000– Call 406.301.4035.

## **Complete Stained Glass Crafting System for Sale**

Includes grinder, foiler, scoring machine, cutting pad and many tools. Also glass. Call for details, asking \$200. Call 406.547.2184

## **Toro Snowblower**

Very nice 21-inch, electric start Toro Snowblower, like new, asking \$375, call 406.378.3226.

## **2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel\***

2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel, black, 111,000 miles. Asking \$36,900, call 406.945.2180.

## **Livestock Guardian Pups\***

Anatolian Shepherd/Karakachan. Guard goats, sheep, chickens, cows and kittens. Call or text 931.0225 or email Hoofnpawworkingstock@gmail.com.

## **Makita Cordless Weed Trimmer**

Brand new Makita cordless weed trimmer, includes 2 batteries, charger, goggles, cinch sack. Asking \$395. Call 406.374.2406.

## **Wanted 1955 to 1959 Chevy or GMC Pickup or Parts**

Call 406.326.2287.

## **Original Can Filter**

1 original can filter, 12" diameter, 13" tall. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184

## **Hydrofarm Grow Light Fixtures**

\$20 each or 4 for \$60. Call 406.547.2184.

*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.*