

# FALL RIVER ELECTRIC CUTS THE RIBBON

Fall River Electric Cooperative recently cut the ribbon to the Co-op's new employee housing complex in Felt. Three new housing units were constructed to provide housing for critical staff to ensure they can respond to power outages on a timely basis.

Fall River Electric CEO Bryan Case was joined by staff members and Teton County employees who assisted in making the project possible.



Pictured left to right: FRE staff Mindy Clinton and Wendi Celino, and CEO Bryan Case; County Planner Sharon Fox, County Permit Tech Eva Ryan, County Code personnel Amber Pence; and Ben Bollinger from Fall River Electric

#### FALL RIVER PROPANE OFFERS LOWEST PRICE

Fall River Propane, an owned subsidiary of Fall River Electric Cooperative, wants you prepared for the upcoming fall and winter season. If you use propane for heating, cooking, water heating, or just your propane-powered fireplace, Fall River Propane is offering the season's lowest price during its Summer Fill promotion.

Order two hundred gallons or more before August 30, 2025, for the lowest price. Call Fall River Propane at 833.682.3671 during normal business hours *OR* if you are already a Fall River Propane customer, you can order online at *www.fallriverpropane.com* and click the link Order Online at the top of the homepage to schedule your delivery before prices increase with colder weather.



#### Lindstedt, Stiehl, and Schmier Win Re-Election



Lindstedt, who resides in District 4, East Driggs area, earned 1,211 votes, while challenger Delwyn Jensen garnered 614. Jodi Stiehl, serving members from southern Island Park, collected 1,645, while Doug Schmier from West Yellowstone District 9 garnered 1,631 votes for re-election. All candidates for board positions must live within the boundaries of their district. All members, however, vote for all board positions.

The proposed Member Board Compensation Committee and its ten members were approved by a vote of 1,531 in favor and 218 opposed.



Anna Lindstedt





**Doug Schmier** 

## Annual Energy Expo Draws Nearly 900 Members

Fall River Electric Cooperative's 2025 Energy Expo drew the second largest crowd of ownermembers of the Co-op in Ashton history with nearly nine hundred. Attendees of the event gathered and enjoyed a free breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, and a drink. Members also toured nearly two dozen informative exhibits, collected free prizes, and experienced an electrical safety demonstration. Their children played in the bounce houses, rode in a bucket truck, enjoyed the climbing wall, and munched on cotton candy and popcorn.

During the annual business meeting of members, graduating high school scholarship winners were announced and CEO/General Manager Bryan Case provided owner-members with a recap of Co-op activities in 2024 and shared plans for the future.

The Ben Nash family of Chester, Idaho, won the Grand Prize of a \$1,000 energy credit. The prize was presented the award by the Co-op's board.



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www.fallriverelectric.com



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Where Service Matters

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ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East Ashton, ID 83420

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West Yellowstone, MT 59758

**All Our Offices Are Open** Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



District 1 Rexburg/Rigby Vice President

**Travis Markegard** District 2 West Victor



**Georg Behrens** District 3 East Victor



**District 4** East Driggs

**Brent Robson** District 5



West Driggs/Tetonia **Dede Draper** 





District 7 South Island Park Secretary/Treasurer





**District 9, West Yellowstone** 





Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper

and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your Fall River FLASHES faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ fallriverrec.

#### **Prepare For Wildfire Season Now**



Protecting the power grid of Fall River Electric Cooperative from wildfire damage is a priority for the Co-op but, more importantly, protecting the lives and property of our ownermembers is of paramount importance. Fall River Electric has a wildfire mitigation plan posted on our website at www.fallriverelectric. com/wildfire-plan that is used to outline the steps your Cooperative takes to mitigate the risk of wildfire.

The objectives of the plan include the following:

- Minimize the sources of wildfire ignition through a multi-faceted aggressive approach to vegetation management and employing the latest line design and facility construction/maintenance.
- Improve grid resiliency by incorporating Rural Utility Service (RUS) guidelines.
- Monitor weather events that could lead to wildfire ignition and coordinating with local emergency management personnel.
  - Identify high-risk areas and disable reclosers during red flag events, while communicating to members of the need for crews to visually inspect power outage areas before re-energizing, which may result in longer outages.
- Providing the proper training and procedures for crews to coordinate their activities during high fire risk events.

Should a serious wildfire event occur within our service territory, Fall River Electric Cooperative may implement a "Fire Safety Shutoff" (FSS) that is defined as an entire shut-off of power in any one or more of our service areas. A FSS will result in the loss of power to critical equipment, such as well pumps, irrigation lines, refrigeration, electric gates, and garage

door openers, as well as members who have medical equipment reliant on electrical power. Internet and cell service may also be affected if the FSS has a long duration.

The option of a FSS would be used only in extraordinary circumstances. The length of a FSS will depend on crews' ability to visually inspect power lines in daylight hours before re-energizing.

Members should also be aware that Fall River Electric's power and transmission suppliers, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and PacificCorp, may also institute their own public power shutoff that could impact Fall River's system or portions of it and their decision to do so would be out of Fall River Electric's control.

Owner-members of Fall River Electric Cooperative should be prepared during wildfire season for the possibility of a Fire Safety Shutoff by taking the following steps:

- 1. Have an adequate supply of water and non-perishable food for each member of your household.
- Have a plan for medication and/or items 2. that need refrigeration.
- 3. Have a back-up source of electrical power to operate well pumps, irrigation, and medical equipment.
- Be aware of where to gather in case of 4. an emergency and a way to travel safely to that location if you are unable to remain at home.
- 5. Have a way to monitor Fall River Electric Cooperative's Facebook page at www. facebook.com/FallRiverREC/ by way of your smartphone for updates on power loss and restoration plans.

Fall River Electric has resources available on our website to help members determine the type and size of a standby generator to ensure power is available to your home or business in case of a system shutoff. Click www. fallriverelectric.com/ and select the menu item Standby Generators under the tab "My Renewable Energy."

Together we can mitigate wildfire danger.

## **Fall River Earns Safety Award From** NWPPA

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) recently celebrated the winners of their 2025 Safety Contest awards at their Engineering and Operations Conference in Spokane, Washington.



Fall River Electric Cooperative received a second-place safety award for electric utilities with 100,000 to 150,000 hours of exposure. This year's Safety Award winners were selected based on their 2024 safety performance, including incident and severity rates, as reported on each utility's safety form. The honors celebrate the commitment of NWPPA member utilities to foster safe workplaces and protect their teams on the job.

Fall River Electric Cooperative was one of only two Idaho-based electric utilities to receive an award.

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