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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

GEARING UP FOR SUMMER PROJECTS AND MEMORIAL DAY IS AROUND THE CORNER

By **TYE WILLIAMS** | Manager,
Southeast Electric Cooperative

ANOTHER winter has passed, and May is here. There was not a lot of snow this winter, but I am hopeful our area will receive rain through the spring and summer. In early March, Southeast Electric Cooperative had to deal with strong winds and heavy ice on the lines. The linemen worked long hours for nearly a week to restore power to everyone on the system. Due to the Operations Department pole-change-out program, the number of broken poles was limited to 38.



As we come out of the winter, Southeast's Operations Department is ramping up for summer projects. We are continuing to change out poles, planning to change out another 800 poles this year, starting in the Knowlton area. The second large project

is a transmission line extension and substation build in the Albion area. This was a project that was paused due to COVID.

Before summer begins, Memorial Day gives all of us a day to remember and honor those who sacrificed their lives, serving in the United States

Armed Forces. Over the last few years, my aunt has done a lot of work researching our ancestry. It was fascinating to learn one side of my family has been in the U.S. since the 1600s. She was able to verify, and I am very proud of the fact that, I had ancestors fight in the Revolutionary War for America's Independence and for the North in the Civil War.

Just as many of you reading this know of someone who fought in WWII, my grandfather fought in WWII and was stationed in the Pacific Theatre. We all honor those who sacrificed for us in different ways and I encourage you to do so in your way this Memorial Day. RM





1983 Southeast Electric Cooperative Board: **Back Row:** Vern Emery, Whitey Jardee, Russell Culver, Charles Guyer, Mike Kornemann, Ben Geving and Erlend Laird; **Front Row:** Lester Williams, Merle Hayden, Francis Hayes and Ed Loken. | **FILE PHOTO**

Remembering Erlend Laird

Southeast Electric Cooperative was saddened to lose a member of its cooperative family. Erlend Dixon Laird passed away Monday, February 21, 2022, at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Billings after a short illness. Erlend was born and raised on the ranch. He graduated from Carter County High School in Ekalaka. He and his wife, TheaLou, had three children, Ande, Robert and Scott.

Erlend enjoyed everything about his life on the ranch and in the air. His lifelong joy was flying. He went to college in Bozeman to learn to fly at 19 years old, and has been in the air ever since. He owned a variety of different planes over the years. He and TheaLou enjoyed



hunting coyotes out of the Super Cub. He also shared his passion for flying with numerous students he instructed over the years. Erlend and TheaLou enjoyed woodworking together, making many family heirlooms.

He made many lifelong friendships with his hunters, as well as those he met through his faith.


Erlend served on the Southeast Electric Board of Directors for 52 years, making him the longest serving board member. He was also on the Upper Missouri Power Cooperative board, traveling to Sidney for monthly meetings for more than 23 years.

Until we meet again, see you later dear friend! 

\$200,000 returned to members

THE Board of Trustees of Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO), Inc. authorized the general retirement of \$66,379.29 of the 2007 G & T capital credits and \$133,620.71 of the 2006 Cooperative capital credits, for a total of \$200,000. Your cooperative's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each calendar year, we subtract operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year; the balance is the "margin." This margin is allocated

REMINDER! Look for your capital credit check in the mail. It will go out with your 2022 Annual Meeting Notice at the end of May

to each member based on the amount each member paid for electricity. The SECO board of directors, before distributing the patronage, must consider the financial condition of the cooperative, the need for capital funds and the availability of loan funds. Your cooperative has returned a total of \$5,035,233 in patronage since 1946. 

NOTICE: NEW AFTER-HOURS NUMBERS

PLEASE CALL:

Jake Hammel at 406-581-0884
Adam Kuntz at 406-941-0861
Bill Kalstrom at 605-593-3533

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