

Barron Electric Cooperative
June 2024
Captured by the lens of
Celeste Rouse

News FOR YOU...

Empowering Students to Achieve their Dreams \$21,000 in Scholarships Awarded

Barron Electric Cooperative is proud to announce their 2024 scholarship winners. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education. Barron Electric has awarded \$415,500 to 462 students since 1965.



Elliana Bayer



Vicki Christenson



Carson Donze



Olivia Gifford



Summer Hammann



Hayden Hince



Lilyana Hotchkiss



Joshua Jain



Carson Klein



Cole Larson



Julia Lyons



Madelen Melton



Zoe Nelson



Andie Otto

(Continued on page 4)

Winning Photo Receives a \$50 Credit

E-mail your summer photo to memberservices@barronelectric.com for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by June 8, 2024. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.



Barron Electric hosted an electric vehicle (EV) safety training for local first responders and towing companies. Mike Klimkosky, of EVsafe, discussed EV accident safety, fire suppression and extrication. Participants had the opportunity to view different models of EV vehicles.

Mike informed participants that Wisconsin has a new law requiring orange and black "EV Hybrid" stickers to be attached to each license plate

issued for an electric or hybrid vehicle.



Determining the type of vehicle involved in a crash is one of the first things responders do when arriving on the scene. In 2023, Wisconsin had nearly 146,000 electric and hybrid vehicles on the road.



Mike Klimkosky of EVsafe talks about charging electric vehicles.

GPS Project & Pole Testing Continues

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS) is working on Barron Electric's system. GMS will be on



members' property to inventory and take pictures of equipment, i.e. meters and transformers. Their vehicles will display signs with Barron Electric's logo, and GMS crews will carry identification badges noting they are contracted by Barron Electric.

Pole Testing

American Energy Services is testing poles in Bear Lake and

Stanford townships in Barron County and Birchwood Townships in Washburn County. A sign that displays Barron Electric Cooperative's name will be displayed on their vehicles, while a 4-wheeler may be used to move efficiently throughout the system. If you have questions, please call 800-322-1008 or e-mail operations@barronelectric.com.

From Our Trees to Your Table

A&M Pure Maple Syrup Creates Quality Products

A Wisconsin State History Project in the 5th grade sparked Andy Humphrey's interest in the art of maple syrup. He explains, "We had a junk drawer at home which included old tapping spouts. When I inquired about them, my dad told me what they were and showed me how to tap maple trees that season." This project eventually grew into a business venture. A&M Pure Maple Syrup, owned by Andy and wife, Marylin, Humphrey, was established in 2012. Starting with 50 taps, the business has now grown to over 20,000. Andy remarked, "Every year, our business has doubled in size." This past winter, the Humphreys were able to tap in January due to the warmer weather. Traditionally, they start in mid-February. When asked about challenges they have faced with their business, Marylin said, "Since this is a short season, we work hard to anticipate our customer's needs."

Quality Products

Andy and Marylin are proud to create products that start with the best quality pure maple syrup made on their farm. A&M sells a variety of infused maple syrups including cinnamon, coffee, ginger, wild orange, anise, and bourbon. Their Kripple Kreek pancake mix, made with pure products, is sold in different flavors including: sweet cream, blueberry, double chocolate chip, apple spice, buttermilk, lemon poppy seed, and cranberry

orange. Maple sugar is sold by the pound and can be used in place of granulated sugar in recipes. Their products are sold locally and throughout the United States. A&M Pure Maple Syrup also sells a variety of equipment for hobbyists, as well as producers.

A&M Pure Maple Syrup is located at 735 16 1/2 Street, Dallas and is open Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit ampuremaplesyrup.com or call 715-418-3952 to place an order.



Andy, Marylin, and their newest addition, Sawyer, have made a career with maple syrup and look forward to creating products customers will enjoy.

EPA's New Power Plant Rules Ignore Reliability Challenges

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry. The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to deploy carbon capture and sequestration, a technology that is not yet proven or commercially available. Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, remarked, "The new EPA rules ignores our nation's ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation's energy future." He noted that the power plant rule would force the early retirement of always-available generation sources and limit construction of new natural gas plants. Under the new rule, existing coal-fired units that

plan to operate past the start of 2039 must reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 90% by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants operating as baseload to capture or avoid 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032.

Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Cooperative's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, said, "Dairyland is committed to providing our members, including Barron Electric, with the safe, reliable and cost-competitive electricity that is essential to power homes and businesses. We are on a decarbonization journey that takes a measured approach to reducing our carbon intensity without compromising reliability and affordability. The proposed EPA Power Plant rule - as written

- would retire dispatchable generation before the end of its useful life. Proposed solutions within the rule, such as converting coal-fired power plants to run on natural gas or to utilize carbon capture and storage (CCS) are cost-prohibitive and reliant on emerging, but unproven, technologies."

He added, "Dairyland is researching the viability of small modular nuclear reactors and battery storage, but there is currently no battery technology that can dependably or affordably replace the always-available resources our members rely on. We continue to work with NRECA and elected officials to advocate for common-sense policies and regulations."

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. and Dairyland Power

2024

Scholarship Winners

(Continued from cover)



Brenna Peterson



Sommer Pittman



Caitlyn Shatley



Sarah Stoveren

Funds for Barron Electric's scholarships are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members. The Federated Youth Foundation has specific requirements for which the funds can be used, one of which is scholarships. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use funds from unclaimed capital credits to reduce rates.



Aiden Susedik



Mariah Thill



Mackenzie Weltzin

Condensed Board Minutes

March 27, 2024

Randy Cook is President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 7 which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner, Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102842 through #102921 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$651,584 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$15,820. Total receipts in the office \$2,409,148; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,544,503; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$2,976,700; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$202,974 and the power bill was paid on 03/27/2024 in the amount of \$2,092,685.
- Director Mandel reported from the Annual Meeting Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting. Discussion regarding 2025 Annual Meeting day and time of the week. Suggested a Tuesday night meeting at the BACC. The board approved Tuesday night as the day of the week for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Director of Member Services Beaudette will contact the BACC for availability for April 8, 2025 for the first selection or April 15, 2025.
- A membership list of 37 was presented and approved without objection.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 1,503.19 consumer hours off, which is 66.64% below 2023 hours of 4,506.58. Overtime year-to-date is 124.75 hours, which is 49.90% below 2023 hours of 249.00.

View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.

News FOR YOU...

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