

# HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT



**Empowering our Communities**

## ANNUAL MEETING HOT TOPICS

High Plains Power (HPP) hosted its 25th Annual Meeting of the Membership, Saturday, 13 July, 2024 at the Fremont County Fairgrounds.

CEO Darick Eisenbraun, the HPP Board of directors and CFAO Jon Mayes spoke on key issues that could have an impact on High Plains Power and it's members. These issues are regulator pressures, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the potential for consolidation.

Regulatory pressures have a significant affect on rates. Recent changes to EPA carbon standards will have a costly impact on existing coal plants. Tri-State, our generation and transmission cooperative from whom we purchase power is headquartered in Colorado, and subject to Colorado state mandates like the Colorado 80 x 2030 plan. This plan requires 80% of their energy to be supplied by renewables like wind and solar. Some of the changes that will happen due to this mandate will increase the costs for Tri-State to provide power. Mandates will create costs for all Tri-State members, even

those members in other states, like Wyoming.

Tri-State has requested a 6.4% increase to their rate through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Their initial rate increase request was rejected and this is a comeback filing that, if approved, could go into affect as early as July 1, 2024. HPP has been active in protesting parts of the rate filing to ensure that the rate is just and reasonable so that we are not paying for costs caused by other members of Tri-State.

In the fall of 2023, High Plains Power, Garland Light & Power, Carbon Power & Light and Big Horn REA combined for a feasibility study of consolidation. Big Horn REA has since withdrawn from the process, but the remaining cooperatives, including HPP continue to research if consolidation would be of benefit to our respective members.

Each board will recommend, based on their findings, whether to move forward with consolidation or not. But the ultimate decision will lie with the membership and will be decided by your vote.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PURPLE HEART CITY

A purple heart city is a community that honors military personnel who were wounded or killed in combat while defending their country's freedom. Dubois Wyo. is a purple heart city. The hard work of the local VFW and Military order of Purple Heart, Chief Joseph Chapter, Boise ID worked with the city to make this happen. It is important to remember those who gave all serving. Please remember the Gold Star Families as well on this day.

**August 7th is  
National Purple  
Heart Day.**

Please fly your Flag  
on this day.



*Thank you to Marine Corps First Sergeant Timothy Tomaszewski for sending us a letter about this important day.*

# HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT

## EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

### How Business and Industry Help Prepare Students for Success

Preparing high school students with critical professional skills is vital for their success after graduation. Businesses and industries can play a pivotal role in this process by engaging with schools to create opportunities that go beyond traditional classroom learning. These collaborations bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical skills, ensuring that students graduate with the tools they need to thrive in their careers.

Read below to discover ways that business and industry can directly impact how students are prepared for successful future careers.

#### Internship and Apprenticeship Programs

Establishing internship and apprenticeship programs allow students to gain hands-on experience in a professional environment. Businesses can partner with schools to provide structured programs where students earn credit while working alongside professionals to learn practical skills and gain insights into various industries.

#### Mentorship Initiatives

Providing high school students with professional mentors in a chosen field of interest can provide them with invaluable guidance and connections. Mentorship activities, which may consist of regular meetings, discussions, and shadowing experiences, provide students with a realistic understanding of different career paths and the skills necessary for success in those fields.

#### Workshops and Skill Development Sessions

Organizing workshops on essential professional skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management can greatly benefit students. Industry professionals can lead these sessions, sharing their expertise and real-world insights.

#### Guest Lectures and Career Talks

Inviting professionals to speak at high schools can broaden students' horizons, and inspire them to explore various career options. These talks can cover industry trends, career pathways, or the importance of specific skills.

#### Real-Life Projects and Challenges

Collaborating with schools to present students with real-life projects or challenges to solve in coursework. This type of hands-on experience encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, while exposing students to the dynamics of working on practical tasks.

#### Industry-Relevant Curriculum Input

Partnering with schools to align high school curricula with the skills and knowledge required in the job market can help ensure that students are learning relevant information to attain in-demand skills.

#### Networking Opportunities

Facilitating networking events where students can interact with professionals from different industries helps them build connections and interest early on. These interactions can provide insights, potential career opportunities, and valuable contacts for the future.

#### Scholarships, Grants, and Sponsorships

Supporting scholarships, grants, or sponsorships to fund new programs encourages students to pursue higher education or certifications in their chosen fields.

*This article was written by the Wyoming State Board of Career and Technical Education.*



#### Drone inspection of power lines begins August 6th.

High Plains Power has drone inspections that will begin on August 6th, covering areas and infrastructure around these Substations: Sand Draw, Lost Cabin, Burris, Boysen, Lander, Spiker and Owl Creek. They will be in vehicles marked as High Plains Power. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the main office at 307-856-9426.