

# Preventative Maintenance Keeps the Lights On



**Brian Heithoff**  
CEO / General Manager

At High West Energy, we take system maintenance seriously. Every year, we budget considerable resources to ensure equipment performance, so that we can continue reducing the amount of outage time our members experience. Here is a summary of just some of the preventative maintenance we will be performing in 2018.

## POLE TESTING

Our utility poles form the backbone of our system's infrastructure, but they can sometimes be damaged or weakened both above and below ground by farm equipment, fire, lightning and general decay. To address these problems, High West Energy hires an independent contractor to inspect approximately 6,000 poles annually. We own almost 75,000 poles, so this equates to a 12-year cycle to review all poles. From these inspections, we have been replacing around 300 poles per year.

In 2018, we plan on inspecting and replacing poles near Potter, Sidney and east of Cheyenne. Believe it or not, we have some poles in service that we installed in the 1940s and 1950s.

## SYSTEM UPGRADES

High West Energy's system of 3,600 miles of electric line gets a regular facelift in the form of new larger poles, wires and transformers, as well as the addition of substations. We are once again budgeting to replace and build 50 miles of line in 2018.

## KEEPING TREES IN CHECK

Regular tree-trimming in our rights-of-way is vital to system performance and safety. While we do trim some trees with our crews, we hire a contractor to do most of this work. We inspect the entire system on a three-to-five-year cycle. In 2018, we will begin trimming near Albin, Burns and Carpenter, and trim additional vegetation as needed.

## BREAKER MAINTENANCE

System breakers interrupt the flow of electricity in the event of a broken pole, downed electric line, vehicle accident, storm damage, or if farm or industrial equipment comes in contact with a power line. Breakers also interrupt service in case of a short, to prevent overload. A few years ago we began inspecting, testing and repairing our breakers on a three-year cycle. In 2018, we will be working on our breakers in Albin, Dix and Cheyenne.

## SUBSTATIONS

Substations are periodically tested and serviced to ensure proper operation. We certify the following substation equipment on a rotational basis: oil circuit reclosers, power transformers, voltage regulators, circuit switches and electronic control equipment. Additionally, we have made it a priority to clearly label the components in our substations for quicker identification and response in times of outages. We will complete our labeling project in 2018.

## HIGH WEST ENERGY

# High West Cowboy is a World Champion

Brody Cress, 21, of Hillsdale, won the saddle bronc world championship during the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December.

Cress scored 86 points aboard Frontier Rodeo's Delta Force to finish with a total of 841.5 points from 10 rides during the Las Vegas rodeo. He finished 77.5 points clear of the No. 2 saddle bronc rider, Hardy Braden.



In December, he graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He is a past recipient of the High West Energy Scholarship.

"I came in here and did my job," Cress told the Casper Star-Tribune on Dec 16. "I took it one horse at a time and rode 'em the best I could. It's awesome to be able to walk away with an (NFR) average buckle."

Cress attended high school at Cheyenne East, graduating in 2014. He won three Class 4A state wrestling titles during his time as a Thunderbird.

**"I took it one horse at a time and rode 'em the best I could."**

Cress told the Casper Star-Tribune that he plans to compete again next year.

"I feel great. I wish I could go another 10 (rounds). I'm definitely excited to turn right back around and get back on some horses," Cress said.

To view the full article in the Casper Star-Tribune, go to: <http://trib.com/sports/rodeo>.

# SPARKS

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Meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday each month.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager  
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## High West Digital Solutions, a full-service provider of technical support for all of your computer-related issues.

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TWO LOCATIONS: CHEYENNE & PINE BLUFFS

FEBRUARY

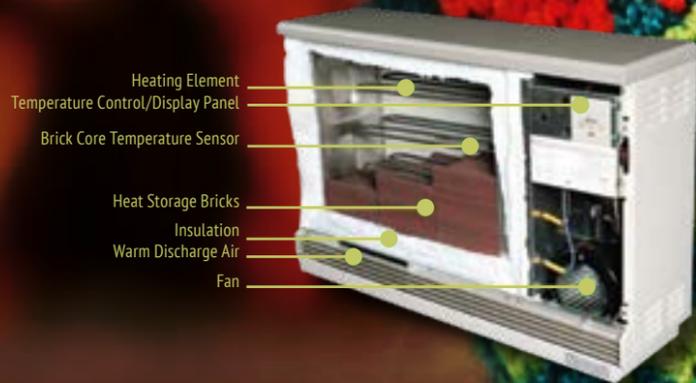
[highestenergy.com](http://highestenergy.com)

# Lower Your Bill with a Heat Storage Unit

Are you looking to warm up that drafty room in your home affordably? It is not hard to rack up kilowatt hours on your electric bill during the winter months. We are here to tell you that heat does not have to be so costly; unplug your space heater and get ready to save money.

High West Energy offers Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating units that can deliver reliable and consistent comfort while reducing the high electricity costs associated with traditional space heaters. The unit's ability to store heat for long periods of time allows you to get on-peak performance for an off-peak price. It converts electricity into heat and stores it in high-density ceramic bricks.

The 2100 Series room unit is ideal for supplementing an existing heating system, heating a new addition to your home or replacing your space heater. The ETS unit does not produce carbon monoxide, so it is safe and requires very minimal maintenance. High West Energy will visit your home to take measurements and gather information prior to giving you a bid.



### OPTION #1 – HEATWISE RATE:

HEAT ONLY, SEASONAL	
Add'l Access Charge:	\$10.00/mo
Off-peak (10-3pm):	5.5 cents per kWh
On-peak (3-10pm):	N/A, Heating elements are turned off

### OPTION #2 – RESIDENTIAL TOU (TIME OF USE):

WHOLE PROPERTY		
Access Charge:	\$35.00/mo	
Energy Charge:	First 500 kWh	\$0.1700
	Over 500 kWh	\$0.1044
Off-peak (10-3pm):	All kWh per kWh	\$0.07484

Many members are taking advantage of the High West Energy's low rate known as our TOU (Time of Use) or HeatWise, electricity rate to run this ETS unit. Savings can be in the hundreds of dollars. For more information, please call (307) 245-3261 and ask for Joy.



## Agustas Miller Apprentice Lineman

It's all about family for Agustas Miller, apprentice lineman for High West Energy.

Gus joined the energy service after he saw his father, grandfather and cousins find energy careers. He found another family at High West.

"It's like a large family," Gus said.

Gus was born in Mesa, AZ., and graduated high school in Burns, Wyo. He also attended Mitchell Technical Institute.

He joined High West in August 2015.

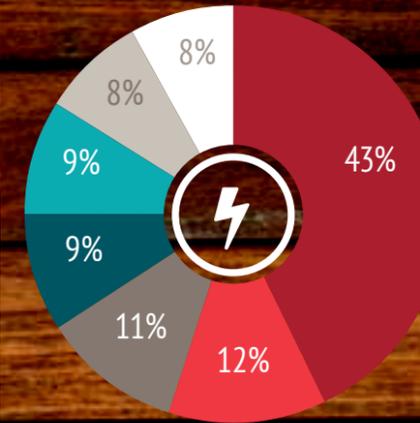
He and his wife, Skylar, live in Cheyenne.

In his spare time, Gus enjoys hunting and fishing.



Turn off lights when not in use.

## Home Energy Use



togetherwesave.com

- **HEATING AND COOLING** Conditioning air in your home consumes the most energy.
- **WATER HEATING** A water heater can be one of the largest energy users.
- **LIGHTING** CFL and LED lighting options can slash lighting costs by 75%.
- **ELECTRONICS** Entertainment systems and devices can use energy even while off or in standby.
- **APPLIANCES** Appliance costs can be reduced with ENERGY STAR products.
- **REFRIGERATION** Cleaning the coils and replacing worn door seals can reduce refrigeration costs.
- **OTHER** Find out what other energy use habits or devices you have at togetherwesave.com.



## Save the Date Annual Meeting

JUNE 21, 2018

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