



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's "power behind your power" are, left to right, **Bryan Franck, Preston Long, Tanner Roth, Ryder Peterson, Cole Jankovsky, Lee Delp, Aaron Eide, Blade Jankovsky, Jesse Obergfell** and **Rich Gorde**.

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 11

BY ANNE PRICE

You've likely noticed Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) crews working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough, as crews often work in challenging conditions, but it's also an essential job.

This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 11, LYREC shares some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water. Lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging from 30 feet to 120 feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their careers, because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most

dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work nontraditional hours in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. To become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years). That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, LYREC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local communities. During severe weather that brings major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They

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understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at LYREC, 10 lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain more than 2,100 miles of power lines across five counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous

job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our communities. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking people, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see LYREC's lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the "power behind your power." Please join LYREC as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers. ■



Lacie Selting

Selting nominated for scholarship

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) Scholarship Committee nominated Lacie Selting for the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) memorial scholarship.

Selting's scholarship application will be entered into a pool of other applicants from the northeast district of Montana. If Selting's scholarship is chosen by MECA, she will receive a \$500 scholarship from MECA and LYREC will match the scholarship. ■

Heating assistance deadline April 30

If you need help this heating season, funds are available. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) accepts applications until April 30. If you reside in Montana, you can download an application from www.lyrec.coop or contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703.

North Dakota residents can contact Williams County Social Services at 701-774-6300, McKenzie County Social Services at 701-444-3661 or Community Action at 701-572-8191. North Dakota residents may also download an application at www.lyrec.coop.

If you find yourself in an emergency after April 30, you may still be able to get assistance through the Energy Share Program. For more information, call the numbers listed above or Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperative at 406-488-1602. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's annual meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Richland County Event Center
Registration starts at 5 p.m.



Spring into energy savings

We'll soon be celebrating the first day of spring. With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money.

Here are a few simple tips to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home as warmer temperatures arrive:

- 1. Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15%. Use the first day of spring as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
- 2. Open windows.** Opening windows creates a breeze to naturally cool your home without using air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.
- 3. Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
- 4. Cook outside.** On warmer days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.
- 5. Caulk air leaks.** Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out – and cash in your wallet.
- 6. Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10%.
- 7. Seal ducts.** Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30% of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.
- 8. Switch on bathroom fans.** Bathroom fans remove heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort. ■



WHAT IS SMARTHUB?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.

Go paperless and get \$10!

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is offering a one-time \$10 bill credit for going paperless through June 30!

For those who signed up for paperless bills prior to 2022, LYREC hopes you enjoyed your \$10 credit on your January statement. Those who sign up between now and June 30 will receive a bill credit on the following month's bill.

How do you sign up for paperless billing?

1. If you are a new SmartHub user, either download the SmartHub app on your phone/tablet or go to www.lyrec.coop and register as a new SmartHub user.
2. As a SmartHub subscriber, you will receive an email notification each month after your bill is ready to view. Using this notification, you can view or pay your bill online.
3. If you would like to sign up for text notifications, login to

SmartHub, go to "Notifications," then "Manage Contacts," then "+Add Phone Contact" and add your cellphone number. Check the box, "Receive Text Messages," and you will receive a code via text. Enter the special code, then click "continue."

4. If you are already signed up for SmartHub, but are receiving paper bills, you will need to log into your SmartHub account, go to "My Profile," then "Update My Paperless Settings" and toggle the paperless switch to "on."

If you are having trouble signing up for SmartHub, or if you are not interested in SmartHub, but would like to sign up for paperless, call our office at 406-488-1602.

By going paperless, you'll save trees, paper and the cost of printing and mailing bills, which will ultimately save YOU and other LYREC members money. ■

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Richard Tremblay	EMS
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating report

Year to date:	January 2021	January 2022
Total miles energized	2,127	2,127
Total number of meters	6,222	6,221
Kilowatt-hours sold	24,045,901	28,739,999
Revenue	\$2,405,849	\$2,864,920
Total expenses	\$2,551,301	\$3,050,764
Operating margins	(\$144,986)	(\$185,017)