



**Crystal Wyman**, right, ORU trustee, presents a check for \$1,000 to, left to right, **Shawn Conradsen**, **Connie Smith**, **Chuck Thiel** and **Martha Potter**, from the Savage Public School, to assist with the purchase of a juice bar. The juice bar will provide a healthy option for students with allergies to dairy.

## Operation Round Up gives back to community

The Operation Round Up (ORU) board granted \$2,650 to nonprofits and community organizations in Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) service territory in June.

This charitable giving program is made possible by LYREC members who opt to round up their electric bill to the next dollar. On average, a member donates 50 cents per month, or a maximum of \$11.88 a year. Since April 2018, the Operation Round Up board has awarded 55 grants totaling over \$48,000.

On behalf of the Operation Round Up board, thank you for helping make our community a better place. If you have any questions about ORU, please feel free to call our office at 406-488-1602.



ORU trustee, **Jan Bloesser**, presents a check to **Kim Riding**, from the Savage Manor, for \$1,400 to help with the purchase of adequate seating in the manor's commons area.



Operation Round Up trustee, **Wendy Johnson**, presents a check for \$250 to **Rhonda Cayko**, service and mission chair of Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview. The funds will go toward the cost of the monthly parenting newsletter and music CDs. The newsletters are geared toward a child's age and includes ideas for play, family connection, mealtime, story/Bible time, and an introduction to worship and prayer.

## Montana, North Dakota participates in Youth Tour

A total of 26 Montana and 14 North Dakota high school students participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour June 18 to 24 in Washington, D.C. Twenty-eight states participated this year, with a total of 1,239 students in attendance. Due to the pandemic, the youth leadership program was not held in 2020 or 2021.

Drae Nelson, the son of Dennis and Tami, represented Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative this year. The highlight of Drae's trip was meeting the congressional delegates and attending the Orioles game, where the Montana and North Dakota students set the record for the most appearances on the jumbotron. He also enjoyed seeing Gettysburg and the U.S. Naval Academy, and meeting new friends.

An important part of the overall itinerary is a "Co-op 101" education session, and an opportunity to meet with the Montana congressional delegation. The Montana students met with Rep. Matt Rosendale, Sen. Jon Tester and Sen. Steve Daines, and the North Dakota students met with Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Kelly Armstrong during Capitol Hill Day.

"Our team leaders had a wonderful itinerary planned, with so many things to do. It truly was an experience I will never forget," Drae says. ■



**Drae Nelson** poses behind the podium in the Senate chambers during the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

## John Redman Memorial Scholarship

### To be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship:

- The applicant's parent/legal guardian must be a LYREC member.
- The applicant must currently be enrolled in college full time.

### To apply:

- Make a short video explaining what you believe it takes to be a great leader. Also, tell about a time you demonstrated leadership skills.
- Complete an application and email it to [scholarships@lyrec.coop](mailto:scholarships@lyrec.coop).
- Once your application is received, you will be emailed a link to upload your video.

**For more information or to download an application, go to <https://lyrec.com/scholarships>. All submissions must be made by Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.**



In memory of longtime director, John Redman, LYREC has started a memorial scholarship in his name.

# Capital credits

**T**his year, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) returned \$945,000 in retired capital credits to its members. Capital credits come from margins, or money leftover at the end of the year after all operating costs and expenses have been paid. The margins are allocated to each member's capital credit account based on how much electricity the member purchases. The allocated margins are retained

Cooper, Sylvester and Karla ..... Sidney, Mont.  
 Culbertson Water Depot LLC ..... Haltom City, Texas  
 Lowery, Levi and Jamie..... Park City, Mont.  
 Martin, John and Amber ..... Culbertson, Mont.  
 Marx, Joan ..... Deadwood, S.D.

and used by LYREC for operating capital, which reduces the amount the cooperative needs to borrow.

In June, the bills were credited for active members. Checks were mailed to former members. The checks of the individuals listed below were returned for insufficient addresses. If you have contact information for anyone listed below, please call our office at 406-488-1602.

Moran, Lonna ..... Trenton, N.D.  
 O'Connor, Bruce ..... Sidney, Mont.  
 Swinney, Roger and Aileen..... Sidney, Mont.  
 Wyss, Scott..... Belgrade, Mont.  
 Young, Kayden and Kasey..... Pablo, Mont.

# The power of preparation

BY ANNE PRINCE



September is National Preparedness Month. Make preparations to keep you and your family safe during severe weather events.

**W**ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you do not have to achieve a “doomsday” level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (via text, social media or third party).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed) in a safe place away from home (such as a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies, so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

## Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they do not live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you, if feasible. Otherwise, call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

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### Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.

- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up-to-date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative cares about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future. ■



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 Greg Rauschendorfer ..... Vice President  
 Dennis Schmierer ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
 Colin Gartner ..... Trustee  
 Tim Franzen ..... Trustee  
 Dennis Nelson ..... Trustee  
 Jim Vitt ..... Trustee

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 Brenda Bond ..... Chief Financial Officer  
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 Kyle Kavanagh ..... IT Coordinator  
 Margo Zadow ..... Billing Coordinator  
 Pam Wilcoxon ..... Plant Accountant  
 Tiffani Hentges ..... Customer Service Representative  
 Melissa Buckley ..... Customer Service Representative  
 Chris Hillesland ..... Chief Operations Officer  
 Rich Gorde ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Eric McPherson ..... System Controller  
 Kevin Goff ..... Operations Assistant  
 Kelly Keysor ..... Operations Manager  
 Aaron Eide ..... Journeyman Lineman  
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 Mike Eberling ..... Mechanic  
 Dan Gieser ..... EMS  
 Lee Alvstad ..... Mechanic/EMS  
 Richard Tremblay ..... EMS  
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 Corey Candee ..... Chief Information Officer  
 Jeremy Reese ..... Information Technology Technician  
 Edwin Gatzke ..... Line Locator/Groundsman  
 Justin King ..... Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

## Operating report

Year to date:	June 2021	June 2022
Total miles energized	2,127	2,140
Total number of meters	6,220	6,234
Kilowatt-hours sold	134,914,451	148,818,778
Revenue	\$14,249,097	\$15,917,807
Total expenses	\$13,686,509	\$15,605,058
Operating margins	\$1,360,735	\$939,1832