



The commitment of an electric cooperative lineworker is demonstrated by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative lineworkers, from left to right, **Lee Alvstad, Tanner Roth, Rich Gorde, Blade Jankovsky** and **Jesse Obergfell**. Not pictured: Aaron Eide, Bryan Franck and Ryder Peterson.

Celebrate April 8 Lineworker Appreciation Day

They wake before the sun comes up, slip into their gear, and kiss their families goodbye. After stopping by the office to get their orders, they climb into their trucks and head out. Our lineworkers share the same goal: to deliver safe, reliable electricity.

Lineworkers have to work safely and efficiently – all while laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and frequently working in harsh weather. On a typical day,

lineworkers maintain or build distribution lines. However, when an outage is reported, everything else takes a backseat.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) has crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home.

Linda Gorde recalls a storm back in January 2004 when her husband, Rich, missed his daughter's third birthday party.

"The storm was so bad, we had to use snowmobiles to get around. The crew was stranded for hours, the snow froze to our faces and we had to peel the ice off. When we finally got out, we had to drive 10 miles an hour back to town. We passed deer that were so disoriented from the snow and wind," Rich stated. Linda, along with the other lineworkers' loved ones, understands and supports the commitment spouses make to their community during severe storms and power outages. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Lower Yellowstone Electric's lineworkers, we encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the dedication they make to our community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well. ■

Heating assistance deadline April 30



If you need help this heating season, funds are available. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) does not accept applications after April 30. If you reside in Montana, you can download an application from www.lyrec.com 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.com.

If you have 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 at 406-488-1602. ■

Earle wins Basin scholarship

Tianna Earle is the 2019 recipient of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship. She is the daughter of Daniel and Khrystye Earle, Sidney, Mont. Tianna plans to attend Williston State College to seek her associate in science degree.

Determining the recipient of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship is a difficult decision. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) thanks everyone who took the time to apply for the scholarship.

Join LYREC June 5 at the Richland County Event Center, along with a parent, for LYREC's 83rd annual meeting. Several scholarships will be awarded that evening. ■



Tianna Earle



Switch to Safety

The home is over 40 years old and has aluminum wiring, but has not recently undergone a safety inspection by an electrician.



The wall plate is hot to the touch.

Lights get dimmer or brighter when other appliances turn on or off.



There is discoloration of or around the switch plate.

You often experience a shock when operating the switch.



Don't Take These Warning Signs Lightly



Lights dim and/or flicker without cause.

The switch leans to one side or feels loose when operating.



You hear crackling, popping, or buzzing from your outlet.

You detect an odor when a switch is used.



Often breakers trip or fuses blow when the switch is turned on.

If your lighting control points are characterized by any of the above, have your home's electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician as soon as possible.



Cracked, broken or missing cover plates should be replaced immediately to prevent accidental contact with wiring.



Switches and lighting equipment should bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL, Intertek, or CSA.

Keep heating pads, electric blankets safe, too

If you are keeping warm with an electric blanket or using a heating pad for comfort, follow these tips:

- Look for dark, charred or frayed spots or an electric cord that is cracked or frayed. Replace any worn or old heating pad or electric blanket.
- Do not allow anything on top of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use. When covered by anything, including other blankets or pets, electric blankets may overheat.
- Never fold electric blankets when in use. Folded or tucked in blankets could overheat and cause a fire.
- Heating pads or electric blankets should never be left unattended or used while sleeping.



Safety tips from Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperative. Because we care.





**Office closed
April 19
Happy
Easter!**

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**Phone: 406-488-1602
Fax: 406-488-6524
Website: www.lyrec.com**

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- Tanner Roth Journeyman Lineman
- Ryder Peterson Journeyman Lineman
- Brandon Mueller Master Electrician
- Dan Gieser Energy Management Supervisor
- Mike Eberling Mechanic
- Richard Tremblay Service Technician
- Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
- Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
- Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
- Justin King Warehouse Supervisor



Save the date

**Lower Yellowstone Rural
Electric Cooperative
83rd annual meeting**

**Wednesday, June 5
Richland County Event Center
Registration starts at 5 p.m.**

Operating report

Year to date:	January 2017	January 2018
Total miles energized	2,102	2,103
Total number of meters	6,169	6,161
Kilowatt-hours sold	25,786,445	24,955,543
Revenue	\$2,472,645	\$2,442,672
Total expenses	\$2,398,905	\$2,265,146
Operating margins	\$856,368	\$2,391,153

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative