



*Basin Electric Power Cooperative's pole was badly damaged during a hit-and-run accident. Don't let appearances fool you – the line is still energized.*

## Always assume power lines are energized

On Oct. 8, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) received several calls from members in the east Sidney area who had lost power. As

LYREC's operations department was working on pinpointing the outage, a member called and reported seeing a large flash and loud bang. After further investigation, the member

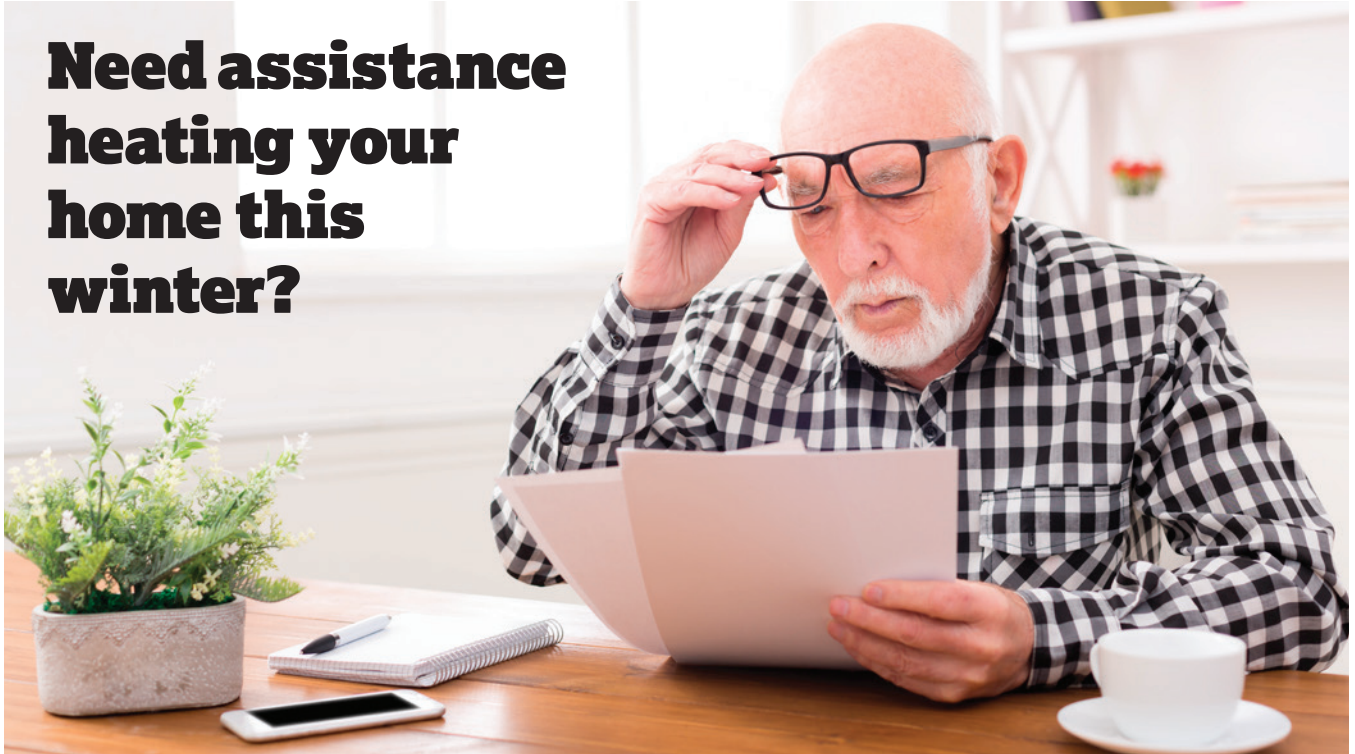
noticed a pole that had been split in half and reported hearing the electrical line buzzing. Operations Manager Kelly Keysor instructed the member to stay clear of the power line and immediately headed to the scene.

The damaged pole was located on Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (BEPC) 115-kilovolt transmission line. Keysor contacted BEPC, who confirmed that the line was still energized. Keysor remained at the scene until the sheriff's department arrived and the line was de-energized. Once the scene was safe, Keysor dispatched LYREC's line crews to restore the power at the east Sidney substation.

Later that evening, Keysor received a call from BEPC, requesting LYREC's assistance with equipment to replace the 65-foot steel pole. Through the cooperative principle, "cooperation among cooperatives," Basin Electric Power Cooperative was able to set the pole without having to wait for the equipment to be delivered from Nebraska, which saved the cooperative resources, time and money.

Accidents happen, but if you hit a pole, call 911 immediately and do not leave the scene of the accident. If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and always assume it is energized. Fortunately, there were no injuries. However, if an innocent bystander would have come into contact with this line, there would have been deadly consequences. ■

# Need assistance heating your home this winter?



The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota are accepting applications. These programs assist Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any

assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CDs or stocks and bonds.)

If you currently reside in Montana and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at <https://www.lyrec.com/low-income-assistance> or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC).

### Below are the income eligibility criteria for Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1 .....	\$25,248
2 .....	\$33,017
3 .....	\$40,785
4 .....	\$48,554
5 .....	\$56,323

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you need assistance, please complete an application today. Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in

### Below are the income eligibility criteria for North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1 .....	\$28,831
2 .....	\$37,702
3 .....	\$46,573
4 .....	\$55,444
5 .....	\$64,315

application denial.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, but have an emergency and need assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627 for referrals. ■





The Brorson Farm Hands 4-H Club received an Operation Round Up grant of \$150 for the materials needed to create the hay bale used in the community bale decorating contest.



Operation Round Up Trustee **Dylan Klasna** presents **Lanette Bidegaray** with a check for \$500 to go toward the construction of an ADA-compliant shower facility at the Culbertson community pool.



The First Lutheran Church is presented a check from **Jan Bloesser** for \$1,000 to go toward rain gutters on the building's new addition.

## Operation Round Up keeps giving

Thanks to Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU), the trust has been able to grant more than \$17,000 to community organizations since the first funds were distributed in April 2018.


The average contribution from any one member is

\$6 a year. The impact these contributions make on our communities is remarkable. Nonprofit and community organizations in the general service area of LYREC may apply. The ORU board members meet quarterly to review applications and grant funds. The next ORU application deadline is Dec. 15. ■

## Weatherization assistance program available

Is your home poorly insulated and causing your energy bills to go through the roof? Do you need energy-efficient windows? Is your furnace not working properly? If you answered yes to any of these questions and you qualify for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, there may be a solution.

The U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. For more information on weatherization, call LYREC at 406-488-1602. ■



**Office closed  
Dec. 25 and  
Jan 1.**

**Merry Christmas  
& happy New Year!**

## Scholarship opportunities offered

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is accepting applications for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) memorial scholarship. All applications must be submitted to: LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270 by the due dates listed below.

### Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an LYREC member's dependent. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which

can be obtained at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com). Applications are due Feb. 7, 2020.

### Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association memorial scholarship

The MECA is offering a \$500 scholarship to an LYREC member's dependent. Applications are judged on academic strength, school and community activities, employment, volunteerism, community service and personal statement.

A committee from LYREC will choose one applicant to send to the MECA committee. A committee comprised of co-op staff members from across the state of Montana will judge the applicants. If the MECA committee chooses an applicant from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC), LYREC will match the \$500 scholarship.

To apply, complete the application form, along with all required materials. You may get the application at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com). MECA memorial scholarship applications are due Jan. 24, 2020. ■



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524


Website: [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com)

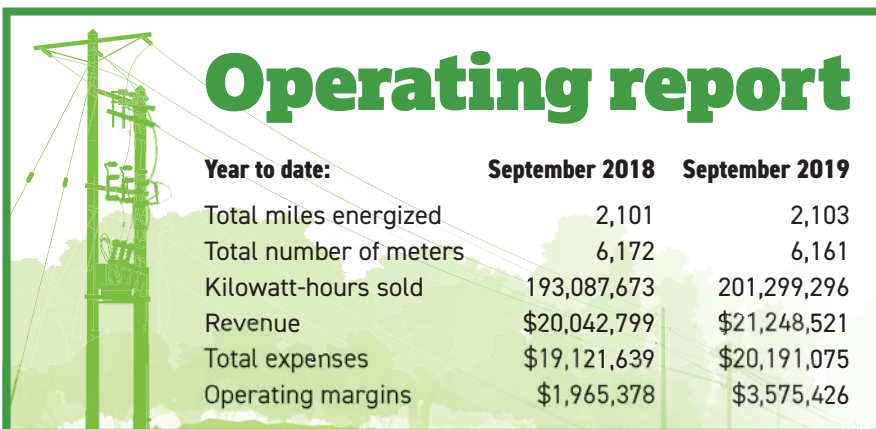
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Greg Rauschendorfer .....	Vice President
John Redman .....	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner .....	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer .....	Trustee
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Brenda Bond .....	Chief Financial Officer
Jami Propp .....	Member Service Manager
Kyle Kavanagh .....	IT Coordinator
Margo Zadow .....	Billing Coordinator
Pam Wilcoxon .....	Plant Accountant
Tiffani Hentges .....	Customer Service Representative
Melissa Buckley .....	CSR/Staff Assistant
Chris Hillesland .....	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde .....	Foreman
Eric McPherson .....	System Controller
Kevin Goff .....	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keyser .....	Operations Manager
Lee Alvstad .....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide .....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck .....	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell .....	Journeyman Lineman
Blade Jankovsky .....	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth .....	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson .....	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp .....	Apprentice Lineman
Cole Jankovsky .....	Apprentice 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
Jeremy Reese .....	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke .....	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King .....	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Operating report

Year to date:	September 2018	September 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,172	6,161
Kilowatt-hours sold	193,087,673	201,299,296
Revenue	\$20,042,799	\$21,248,521
Total expenses	\$19,121,639	\$20,191,075
Operating margins	\$1,965,378	\$3,575,426