



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative spread love on the lawn of its headquarters building to remind everyone that we are in this together. #aworldofhearts

World of hearts

Everyone has challenges, and many may be hidden from sight. The last few months have taken a toll on everyone in some way or another, whether it has been emotionally, physically or financially.

The “world of hearts” movement has been sweeping the nation. The movement resembles hope and encourages spreading positivity. One way to spread positivity is by being kind. Kindness is a choice that we can incorporate into our daily lives. According to scientific studies, being kind can significantly increase happiness and have the potential to positively transform our well-being, life satisfaction and even how long we live. ■

Spring storm hits McCone County

According to the National Weather Center, McCone County saw winds up to 110 miles per hour, which knocked out power to hundreds of McCone County residents the evening of May 20.

With the extreme amount of structural damage, McCone Electric Cooperative (MEC) acted quickly and sought assistance. MEC contacted Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) Operations Manager Kelly Keysor around midnight and asked if LYREC would be able to send crews, equipment and materials the following morning. Approximately 50 lineworkers, including crews from Powerline Pro, Southeast Electric Cooperative, Red Rock Power, Shennum Construction and LYREC, joined MEC crews.

MEC lost roughly 125 three-phase poles, 16 transmission poles, and between 15 to 75 distribution

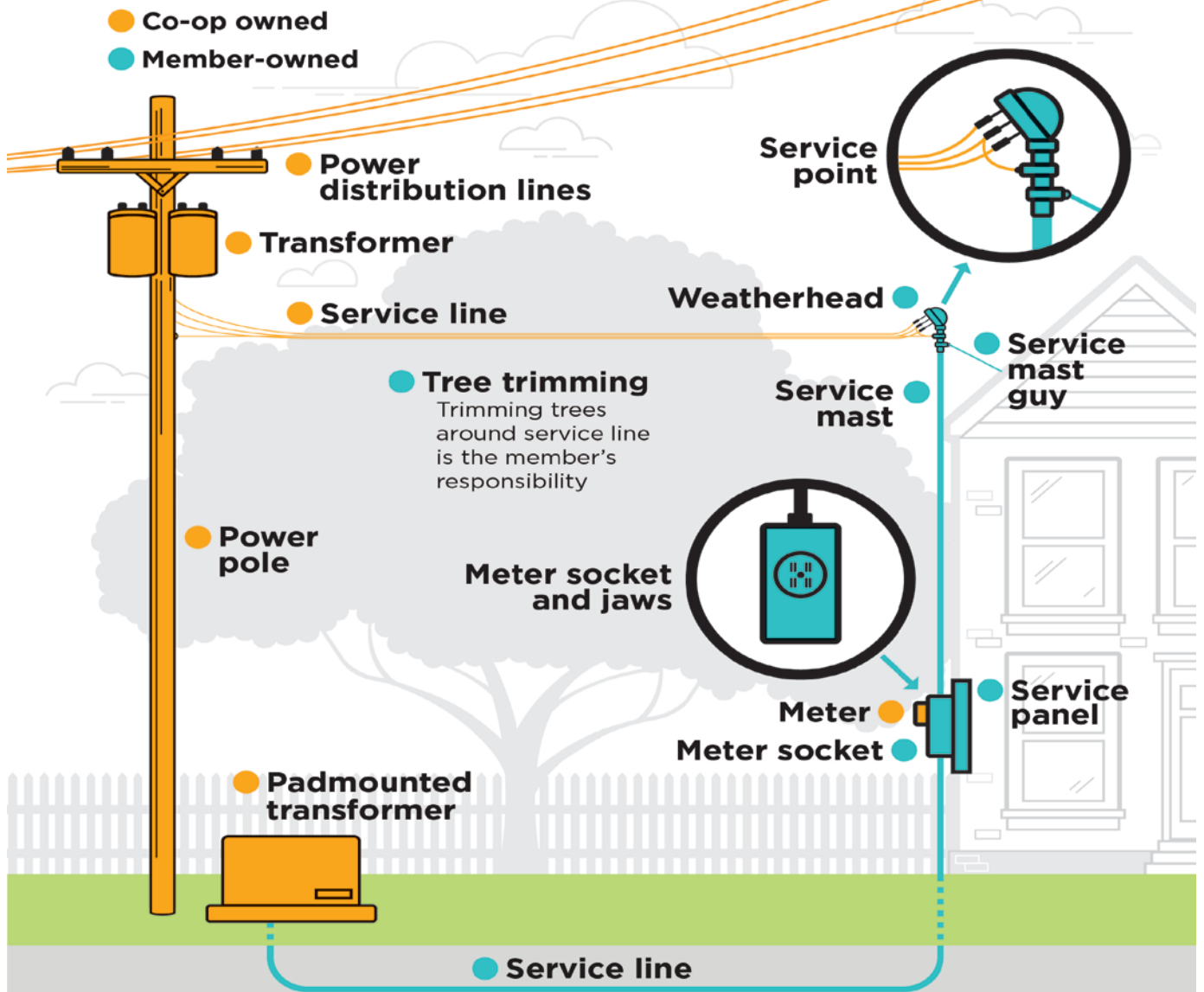


poles during this storm. With the cooperation of the cooperatives and the contracting crews, MEC was able to get the last house energized Sunday morning, May 24. ■

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

Prepay metering offered

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is offering members with a standard single-phase service a new way to pay for their electricity. Prepay metering does not use the traditional billing process where you pay for the electricity after you use it. Instead, you pay for your electricity before you use it. It's like filling your car with gasoline. You monitor the fuel level and decide when you should refill.

To establish a new account with the prepay metering option, the member must sign a prepay service agreement and make a minimum payment of \$25. For existing members, the balance up to the current reading must be paid in full and a \$25 credit must be applied to the account prior to switching to prepay metering.

The prepay meter is read daily and your account balance is reduced by the previous day's usage. The member is responsible for monitoring his or her account balance and will not be receiving a monthly bill. Once the account balance is \$25 or less, the member will receive alerts by email and/or text message. If the account balance reaches zero, power is automatically disconnected until payment on the account is received. Once the account has a credit balance of \$25, the meter will automatically be reconnected.

There are several benefits to the prepay metering program. As a new member, the member may choose

prepay metering in lieu of paying a security deposit. A member may make several payments throughout the month, rather than one lump sum. However, the minimum payment must be at least \$25. If an existing member opts to switch to prepay, any deposit fee previously paid by the member will be applied to the member's outstanding balance. There are no extra fees associated with prepay metering or disconnect/connect fees.

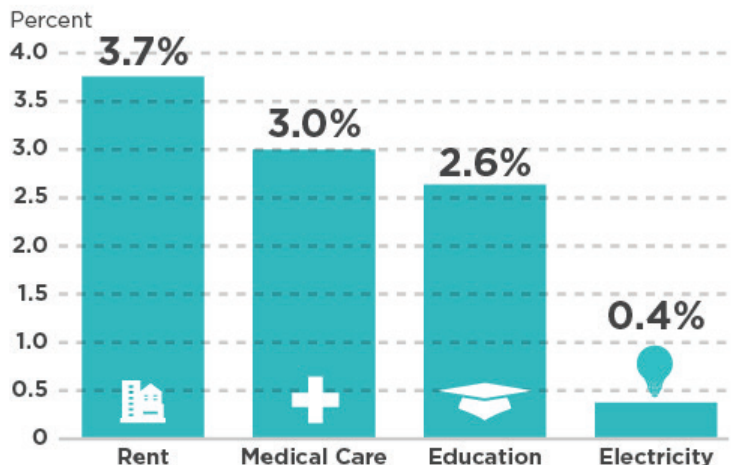
Due to the way the disconnect meters work, not all meters are eligible for the prepay metering service. If you would like more information on prepay metering, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Having trouble paying your electric bill?

The coronavirus and the economy have taken a toll on our lives. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) understands that our members may need help getting back on track. We are encouraging members to be proactive and reach out to us if they are having difficulties paying their electric bill. If you or someone you know is needing assistance, call 406-488-1602 today! ■



Operating report

Year to date:	April 2019	April 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,143	6,200
Kilowatt-hours sold	92,424,609	98,046,323
Revenue	\$9,334,673	\$9,905,424
Total expenses	\$9,078,084	\$9,794,073
Operating margins	\$2,564,683	\$607,227

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen President
 Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
 John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Dennis Schmierer Trustee
 Dennis Nelson Trustee
 Jim Vitt Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen General Manager
 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 