

What's new? Steel poles!

While Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) has been providing power to its members since 1937, its employees are always on the lookout for new techniques or technologies that will improve service for our members. Recently, LYREC has added a new kind of transmission pole to the mix. Two steel poles have been set along Highway 200.

While the initial cost of these poles remains higher than comparable wood poles, steel poles are expected to provide good reliability and solid long-term value. The average lifespan of the steel poles is 80-100 years. Steel poles can be taller, carry heavier loads and are a great option when the pole is not able to be anchored. Plus, there is no labor or need for inspections to monitor pole shrinkage. There are also no material costs to re-tighten hardware, because steel retains its shape and strength. ■

*Upper: President **Allen Thiessen** stands by the new steel pole set on Highway 200.*

Lower: A hole 8 feet in diameter and 27 feet deep was made to set the steel pole.



ATTENTION ALL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Owen Nelson, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., representative, had this to say about his Youth Tour experience, "I was chosen by LYREC

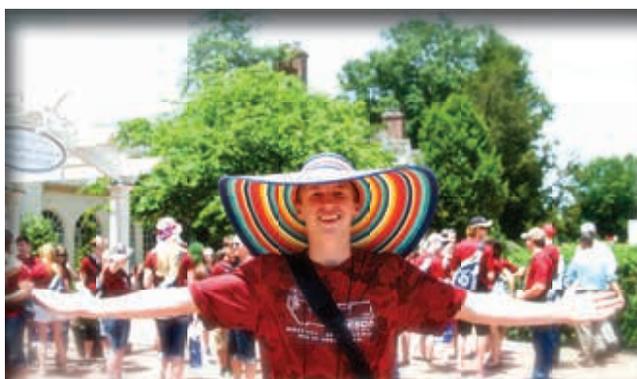


PHOTO BY KATIE RYAN-ANDERSON

to attend the 2016 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. While we were there, we visited numerous monuments, museums and other important buildings, including the Capitol. At the Capitol building, we met with Montana's representative and senators. It was a great experience to see people who are working for the rights of Montana citizens. We were also able to meet with other students around the states sent by their area co-ops. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget. I would like to thank LYREC for choosing me to be our area representative. I would also like to encourage other students to apply to go on this amazing trip." ■

CONTEST RULES

- To enter the essay contest, you must be a current sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardians must be a current LYREC member.
- The essay is not to exceed two, double-spaced pages on the topic.

Explain why you should be LYREC's Youth Tour delegate.

An application can be picked up from your guidance counselor, or at www.lyrec.com. Go to "My Community" then "Washington, D.C., Youth Tour" for additional information.

- **The deadline is Nov. 30, 2016.** Emailed entries should be directed to jamip@lyrec.com, and hard copy entries mailed to: LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, PO Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270.

PRIZES

First Place

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 2017.
- \$1,000 toward college education
- \$200 bill credit for student's parents

Second Place

- \$500 toward college education
- \$100 bill credit for student's parents

Third Place

- \$100 toward college education
- \$50 bill credit for student's parents

LOWER YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
YOUTH TOUR

CHECK IT OUT AT
www.youthtour.coop

Don't be fooled by common energy myths

BY ABBY BERRY

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.



Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air, but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is consumers who make small changes to their energy-efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting www.lyrec.com or calling 406-488-1602. ■

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program available

Are you or someone you know in need of assistance with heating this winter? The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. Montana residents may pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. Below are the income eligibility criteria for 2016-2017.

Number in household	Annual income
1.	\$22,293
2.	\$29,153
3.	\$36,012
4.	\$42,872
5.	\$49,732
6.	\$56,591



For your application to be processed, you will need a copy of your most recent fuel bill, 12 months of income verification for all persons in the household (wages, Social Security/SSI, veterans benefits, child support, unemployment), proof of current resources (bank statements) and a photo ID for all household members 18 years and older, or a birth certificate for children 17 and under. If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income, you will need your SSI award letter.

Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in application denial.

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



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Phone: 406-488-1602

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Website: www.lyrec.com

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Rich Gorde	Foreman
Eric McPherson	Foreman
Kevin Goff	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keysor	Operations Manager
Lee Alvstad	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Blade Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Brandon Mueller	Master Electrician
Dan Gieser	Meter Technician
Ryder Peterson	Apprentice Lineman
Tanner Roth	Apprentice Lineman
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Material/Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.

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Master electrician hired



Brandon Mueller, the son of Tarry and Bonnie, was hired as Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric

Cooperative's master electrician. Brandon received his degree from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D. He has been employed with L&K Electric for the past six years. Brandon enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time. (Meter 22175) ■