

Youth Tour essay winner named



Hill

Alyssa Hill, a student at Lambert High School and the daughter of Gary and Tara Hill, has been selected to represent Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. Alyssa participates in cross-country, basketball, track, band and soccer. She is also involved in FFA, Business Professionals of America and 4-H.

The Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is more than a trip to the nation's capital to sightsee. It is a prominent event in which thousands of high school students from across the United States join together to gain an understanding of our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the many costs of those freedoms.

The tour is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding rural young people to better understand the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes youth with the historic and political environment of our nation's capital through firsthand looks at monuments, historically significant national sites, and government buildings.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative believes in investing in today's youth. We are investing in our – and your – future. We know we have some of the brightest students right here in our state, and we want to give them the opportunity to experience the past, present and future of our country.

Congratulations, Alyssa!
(Meter No. T21285) ■

Nominating Committee to meet in March



Vitt



Gartner

The Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday, March 7, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for

the candidates during the June 6 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 1 and District 2. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 1 and 2. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Jim Vitt, District 1, and Colin Gartner, District 2.

The 2018 Nominating Committee consists of:

- **Representing District 1** – Pam Kilen and Dennis Trudell
- **Representing District 2** – Dean Faulkner and Steve Joslin

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 1 or 2, and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees. If only your spouse's name is on the account, your spouse is the only one eligible to serve on the board of trustees. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative. ■

Bundle up for winter storms

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

Prepare a winter survival kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. LYREC crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit.
- **Water:** In case water pipes freeze or rupture, keep a supply of tap water or purchase bottled water. The recommended amount of water to keep is five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Roads may be inaccessible for several days due to a winter storm. Make sure to refill any prescriptions that family members may need.
- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.

- **Other items:** First-aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Stay warm and safe

If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make

sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. ■



Operation Round Up applications due March 15

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a charitable program that enables members to donate a few cents each month to assist nonprofit organizations within LYREC’s service area. The Operation Round Up program is funded by cooperative members who “round up” their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. For example, if your monthly bill is \$64.35, the bill would be rounded up to \$65. The extra 65 cents would be contributed to Operation Round Up.

The Operation Round Up board of trustees review the applications and distribute funds quarterly. The first quarter applications are due March 15th at 5 p.m. If you would like more information regarding ORU, go to www.lyrec.com. Please submit all applications to jamip@lyrec.com or Attn: Jami Propp, LYREC, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270. ■

Low Income Home Energy Assistance available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications. LIHEAP assists Montana residents and families with their heating costs. If you currently reside in Montana and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703 or you can pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative’s (LYREC) office.

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are needing assistance, please pick up an application today. Below are the income eligibility criteria for 2017-2018.

Number in household	Annual income
1.	\$22,712
2.	\$29,700
3.	\$36,688
4.	\$43,676
5.	\$50,664
6.	\$57,652
7.	\$58,962
8.	\$61,980

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 have an emergency and need assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627 for referrals.

If you are a North Dakota resident, call Community Action at 701-572-8191 for eligibility inquiries and assistance. ■

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.

Congratulations to *Mark Broadhead* for finding his meter number in the December issue.



Statement of nondiscrimination

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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	Foreman
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	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
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operating report

Year to date:	October 2016	October 2017
Total miles energized	2,111	2,111
Total number of meters	6,133	6,163
Kilowatt-hours sold	218,244,511	213,844,891
Revenue	\$20,684,620	\$22,253,726
Total expenses	\$17,907,366	\$20,705,995
Operating margins	\$3,589,085	\$3,254,762