

2017 HIGHLIGHTS



Line foreman Eric McPherson visits the second-grade class during career day.



The co-op gave free Push-Ups during Co-op Day at the Richland County Fair.



Soda Rice represented LYREC during the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour in June.



LYREC awarded 39 students \$1,000 scholarships during the 81st annual meeting.



Journeyman lineworker Tanner Roth saves a kitten that had been stuck in a tree for three days.



LYREC line crew built a high-voltage safety demonstration trailer. Safety demonstrations were given at the Richland County Fair, area schools, and a community event night hosted by LYREC.



Rich Gorde and Mike Eberling speak with the high school students during co-op career day.



Completed construction of two substations. The Iversen Substation was energized in August and the Helmut Substation was energized in October.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Look out for scams

Unfortunately in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cellphone demanding you pay a bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or credit/debit number. If you receive a call about a past due bill from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC), hang up and call LYREC. LYREC will direct you to a secure number to make a payment.
- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of LYREC who needs to collect money,

call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

LYREC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. (Meter No. T23987) ■



LYREC's "Small Town Christmas" float for Sidney's Parade of Lights.



Small change changes lives

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is dedicated to helping the people in our communities live better lives, not only with affordable electric power, but through its involvement in the community. Through Operation Round Up, LYREC provides a simple and rewarding way for its members to help support worthwhile projects in our service area.

Participating in Operation Round Up is easy. Each month, LYREC simply “rounds up” the electric bill of participating members to the nearest dollar. For example, a member’s monthly bill of \$39.64 would be automatically rounded up to \$40, with the additional 36 cents going to the Operation Round Up Trust fund.

The Operation Round Up Trust fund is overseen by a seven-member board of trustees from the community, who were selected by the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative board of directors. The trustees meet quarterly to review donation applications and select the recipients.

Nonprofit community organizations in the general service area of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative can apply for Operation Round Up funds. To apply for funds, you can download the application at www.lyrec.com or pick it up at LYREC’s office.

By giving a few cents each month, members are making a big impact. The cooperative board, trust officers and staff would like to thank our generous members for their participation in Operation Round Up.

The first applications are due March 15. Please submit your application to jamip@lyrec.com or mail to: Attn: Jami Propp, LYREC, PO 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. ■

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

- 1  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- 2  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
- 3  Turn off lights when not in use.
- 4  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- 5  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
- 6  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
- 7  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
- 8  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
- 9  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- 10  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

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.

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

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Jason Brothen	General Manager
Brenda Bond	Chief Financial Officer
Jami Propp	Member Service Manager
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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
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Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

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