

The Brorson Farmhands 4-H Club was awarded \$250 to purchase flannel fabric to make receiving blankets to be donated to the Sidney Health Center Obstetrics Department, Sunrise Pregnancy Support Center and emergency services.



Operation Round Up strikes again

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a community support program in which participating members “round up” their monthly power bill to the next dollar. The difference goes to support a variety of nonprofit and community organizations in the general service area of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. On average, a member voluntarily donates \$6 a year. This past quarter, Operation Round Up awarded grants to three organizations in need.

Operation Round Up is the perfect embodiment of the seventh



Operation Round Up Director **Jan Bloesser** presents **Kristin Podsiad**, from Active Richland County, with a check for \$1,234 to improve the Sherry Arnold Fitness Trail.

cooperative principle of “Concern for Community.” We invite you, as an LYREC member, to consider contributing to the Operation Round Up trust fund. Thank you to all of our members who support Operation Round Up. If you would like more information on Operation Round Up, visit www.lyrec.com. ■



Operation Round Up Director **Crystal Wyman** presents **Candice Schreiber**, from the Savage Sunrise Manor, with \$1,000 to assist with the purchase of new flooring.



Unplug to be more connected

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multitasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities, or the latest trends on social media, makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (this is known as “vampire” energy loss). TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Enjoy all of the beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

Speaking of spending time outdoors, you can also enjoy energy savings by incorporating LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Save energy by keeping warm summer air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by providing energy-saving tips. When you plug back in, we’re just a call or click away. ■

Look who’s new on LYREC crew



Delp

Jankovsky

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) welcomes Lee Delp and Cole Jankovsky as LYREC’s new apprentice lineworkers.

Lee, who is originally from Circle, Mont., obtained his lineworker certificate from Montana Tech in Butte. He went to work at High West Energy in Pine Bluffs, Wyo., for a short time before moving back home to work on his

family farm in Vida, Mont. Lee enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

Cole, who is from Eureka, Mont., attended college at Northwest Lineman College in Idaho. After graduation, he worked for Midwest Power, Powerline Pro and, most recently for Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative. Cole is following the family trade, as both his brother and father are lineworkers. ■



Receive text messages from LYREC

SmartHub has a feature that allows you to receive messages or alerts by email or text from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. To set up your notification preference, login to SmartHub, go to the notification tab, then manage your notifications. There are many notifications from which to choose. The text alert is a new feature, so if you prefer text over email or would like to receive both, you may set this up at your convenience. ■

**LYREC
83rd
annual
meeting**

**Wednesday, June 5
Richland County
Event Center**

**Registration
starts at 5 p.m.**



LYREC lineworker **Aaron Eide** visits with high school students during career day at Sidney High School.

Planning a trip to Medora this summer?



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of **“Touch 2019”** for a 15 percent discount on any of the following during any night of the season:

Things to do:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

LYREC members can also receive 20 percent off admission at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **“Touch 2019.”**

LED lights save money

All light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs are not created equal. Many LED products found on store shelves are of poor quality. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't have a long service life or make exaggerated energy-savings claims.

Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo on LED lighting. ENERGY STAR-certified light bulbs meet strict quality and energy-efficiency standards and are tested by accredited labs.

While LEDs are more expensive to purchase, the true value is in the lifetime and long-term savings of the bulb. Compared to a traditional incandescent bulb, an ENERGY-STAR-qualified LED bulb:

- Can last about 22 years, or as much as 25 times longer.
- Uses only 20 percent to 25 percent of the energy.
- Produces about 70 to 90



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative carries a 10-watt 2,700-Kelvin bulb for \$3.70 per bulb.

percent less heat, making it safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

ENERGY STAR-certified bulbs are available in a wide range of colors. Light colors, or appearance, matches a temperature of the Kelvin scale (K). Lower K mean warmer, yellowish light, while a high K means cooler, bluer light.

Shop smart when buying your next bulbs. Always look for the ENERGY STAR logo. ■

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 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:	March 2018	March 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,168	6,159
Kilowatt-hours sold	72,420,461	72,775,041
Revenue	\$7,019,496	\$7,190,627
Total expenses	\$6,688,029	\$6,738,016
Operating margins	\$1,160,963	\$2,727,726