

Hillesland serves on Richland County fair board

BY JAMI PROPP



Back row, left to right: **Verlin Stepler, Jeff Madsen, Chris Hillesland, Bob Albin**; front row, left to right: **Sheri Sorenson, Tami Christensen and Jamie Larson.**

“No cellphones, no radios. When you needed to find someone, you just had to start walking. Of course, whoever you were looking for was always headed in the opposite direction,” laughs Chris Hillesland. Hillesland has served on the Richland County fair board since 1993, and has seen many improvements in the last 25 years. He serves as the chief operations officer at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.

The new bathrooms, fair office, beer gardens, parking lot, 4-H building and event center were a few larger improvements that Hillesland mentioned. Hillesland says the addition of the event center is one of the biggest accomplishments he has seen while serving on the Richland County fair and rodeo board. Hillesland is proud to say he took part in the planning of the event center, as it has provided a great place for the community to hold gatherings.

According to Richland County Fair and Rodeo Manager Jamie Larson, “The event center is booked nearly every weekend year-round, with an average of four to five other days during the month.”

Hillesland’s primary duties during the fair is to maintain the arena area for all of the events held throughout the week. According to Hillesland, the most demanding part of his duties is the preparation for the Saturday evening concert. The Richland County fair and rodeo hire several additional employees for assisting in the setup and teardown process. The setup begins at 7 a.m. Saturday morning and doesn’t wrap up until 3-4 a.m. Sunday morning. For those of you who see Hillesland out at the fair on Saturday evening looking like he is on his last leg, this explains it!

The fair board and their employees do an amazing job to make the fair process look seamless, but there is a ton of behind-the-scenes preparations and hitches along the way. Hillesland speaks of a particular Saturday evening when things didn’t go as planned. The evening started like any other Saturday night at the fair. The energy was high, and the midway was packed with people lined up to get their favorite fair food before heading to the Gloriana and Montgomery Gentry concert. The grandstands were packed, and just as Gloriana was wrapping up the opening act, a storm started rolling in.

“We stood under the tent for a lengthy period of time waiting and hoping it would let up,” Larson said. Unfortunately, it started lightning and the second half of the concert had to be cancelled due to safety issues.

Hillesland commented, “I remember we had some pretty irate people. It wasn’t fun!” Hillesland stated that he has made many great memories while on the board and has enjoyed working with all the board members and fair employees throughout his 25 years on the board.

“The Richland County Fair is extremely fortunate to have Chris on the board. He was part of the board when I was hired 13 fairs ago and has always been by my side, through the good and bad. I have learned so much from him whether fair- or business-related,” Larson said. ■

Capital credits

It's time for you to get the credit – the capital credit, that is. You've helped build, sustain and grow your electric cooperative, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. Now, Lower Yellowstone Electric is returning capital credits to members like you. This list includes the names of people to whom we owe money. If you, or someone you know, is on this list, please give us a call at 1-406-488-1602.

What are capital credits?

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis. Annually, the co-op allocates capital to each member. The amount of that capital depends on how much that member spent on electricity. It also depends on how much operating revenue the co-op has at the end of the year. If the co-op's financial condition permits, these capital credits are retired. Since cooperative members own the co-op, the extra capital at the end of the year is returned to them.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Amundson, Jon | Sidney, Mont. |
| Arnold, Thad and Lowana | Chinook, Mont. |
| B&G Production Service Inc. | Lake Havasu City, Ariz. |
| Barnett, Russ and Carin | Cheyenne, Wyo. |
| Berndt, Travis | Sidney, Mont. |
| Blackhawk Resources | Billings, Mont. |
| Bramlett, Robert and Ranae | Paducah, Ky. |
| Brass, Tony | Savage, Mont. |
| Columbus Energy | Tulsa, Okla. |
| Congioli, Dan and Tina | Delta Junction, Alaska |
| Dover, James | Billings, Mont. |
| Edeburn, Lorna | Sidney, Mont. |

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| Ellis, Erica | Ft. Collins, Colo. |
| Emerson, Bennett and Crystal | Sidney, Mont. |
| Falcon, Lenny and Misty | Colorado Springs, Colo. |
| Hamlin, Misty | Circle, Mont. |
| Hatcher, John | Valley City, N.D. |
| Hilgers, Keith | Sidney, Mont. |
| Hove, Victoria | Sidney, Mont. |
| Jacobson, David | Portland, N.D. |
| Jorda, Robert | Sidney, Mont. |
| Kerr McGee Oil & Gas Onshore | Denver, Colo. |
| Koon, Richard | Williston, N.D. |
| Liesener, Adeline | Fairview, Mont. |
| M Space Holdings LLC | Park City, Utah |
| Melland, Cheryl | Sidney, Mont. |
| Miller, Albert F. | Fairview, Mont. |
| Morrison, Richard | Williston, N.D. |
| Murschel, Marsha | Sidney, Mont. |
| Myhre, Curtis and Kim | Fairview, Mont. |
| Norgaard, Jess and Sheila | Fort Wayne, Ind. |
| Plowman, Rosa | Williston, N.D. |
| Prevost, Jason | Anchorage, Alaska |
| Rebuelta, Uriel | Cheney, Wash. |
| Rider, D.A. | Williston, N.D. |
| Rossman, Amie | Marietta, Ga. |
| Shaffer, Daryl | Lambert, Mont. |
| and Kimberly Gallagher | Glendive, Mont. |
| Sobotka, Mary | Fairview, Mont. |
| Voss, Gerald O. | Sidney, Mont. |
| Walter, Cleo and Penny | Sidney, Mont. |
| Watters, Shannon | Sidney, Mont. |
| Wheeler, Robert and Sue | Tioga, N.D. |
| Whiteman, Kim R. | Vida, Mont. |
| Wittkopp, John | Fairview, Mont. |

Peterson earns journeyman lineworker award

Ryder Peterson started working for Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative in 2014 after completing his lineworker training at Bismarck State College. After an extensive apprenticeship of on-the-job training and additional book work, Peterson has earned his journeyman lineworker certificate. Congratulations, Ryder!

CEO **Jason Brothen** presents **Ryder Peterson** with his journeyman lineworker certificate.





Ann Bouchard presents Director **Stephanie Ler** of the Fellowship Food Pantry (FFP) \$429 to assist in purchasing a new freezer. FFP serves as an emergency food source and offers nonperishable as well as frozen foods to clients in and around Richland County.



Jan Bloesser presents Program Director **McKen-Z Ramus** from District II Alcohol & Drug Prevention a check for \$500. The ORU trust funds will be used to assist with the materials for the STEP UP program, that educates grades 6-12 on suicide awareness.

Members making an impact

More than 90 percent of all Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members participate in Operation Round Up (ORU). This program rounds participating members' monthly statement to the next dollar and places the funds in an Operation Round Up trust. The trust is overseen by a seven-member board, which consists of members like you, who meet quarterly to disburse the funds to worthy nonprofit organizations.

The funds are disbursed to nonprofit and community organizations in the general service area of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative solely for charitable, educational, scientific, health or safety purposes. The maximum any group or organization can receive annually is \$2,500.

Through the generosity of LYREC members, the Operation Round Up program is making a big difference out of small change. Thank you to all of our members for making our communities a better place to live.

To download an application or for more information on ORU, go to www.lyrec.com. The next applications are due Sept. 15. ■



Vonnie Van Hook presents **Leslie McMillen** a check for \$500 for the Sidney Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. They will be using the funds to go toward the materials at their "Cover Cancer With Love" event.



Dylan Klasna presents the executive director of the MonDak Heritage Center a check for \$500. The funds will be used to aid the after-school enrichment programs.



Linda Nelson from the First Lutheran Church of Savage was presented a check for \$500. The funds will be used to build a place for community and fellowship gatherings.

Check that breaker!

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members with a separate electric heat meter will receive a special rate on their heat from Oct. 1-April 30. All electric heat registered within this timeframe will be at a rate of 4.9 cents per kilowatt-hour (KWH), compared to 7.1 cents per KWH. However, to get the special rate, the breaker must be turned on. Often, members turn off their breaker to their heat meter through the summer months and forget to turn it back on heading into fall. If the breaker is off to the meter, the meter will not register, therefore the member will not be credited for their electric heat and will not get the special rate.

To get the special rate, the heat system must be hard-wired into your load center by a qualified electrician. If your main source of heat is electric and you are interested in the special rate, please contact our office. For the members already receiving the special rate, don't forget to check your breaker! ■



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602
 Fax: 406-488-6524
 Website: www.lyrec.com

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Operating report

Year to date:	May 2017	May 2018
Total miles energized	2,111	2,101
Total number of meters	6,145	6,176
Kilowatt-hours sold	111,072,965	112,256,080
Revenue	\$11,254,348	\$11,266,140
Total expenses	\$10,496,212	\$10,648,056
Operating margins	\$2,295,787	\$1,511,231