

Nominating Committee to meet in March



Franzen



Schmierer

The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 4, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members each from District 3 and District 4. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 3 and District 4. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Tim Franzen, District 3, and Dennis Schmierer, District 4.

Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 3 - Rowdy Cvancara and Kenny Iversen
- Representing District 4 - Trey Bloesser and Mark Tombre

If you are a member of LYREC, reside in District 3 or 4 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 seat. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative. ■

Rural Development Finance Corporation awards grant

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). As a result, communities in our service area are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$3,000 for community-based projects.

RDFC recently granted \$3,000 to the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee to assist with the cost of MonDak Ag Days March 6-7.

The event offers ag producers, students and the general public a unique opportunity to engage in the latest developments and trends in agriculture. This year, the event will feature expanded product demonstrations, interactive youth-driven education and over 50 vendors, making it one of the most comprehensive ag events in the region. ■



Member Service Manager **Jami Propp** presents a \$3,000 check to **Kali Godfrey** for MonDak Ag Days.

Norby wins Youth Tour essay contest



Norby

Avè Norby has been named the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay contest winner. Avè the daughter of Lorilee and Jeremy Norby, is a junior at Sidney High School. In June, she will be joining 25 other students from across Montana to travel to Washington, D.C.

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

Since the late 1950s, more than 50,000 high school students have walked away from the Youth Tour experience as better leaders equipped with the confidence to make a difference. Montana's local electric cooperatives have been sending youth to Washington, D.C., for more than 20 years.

Thank you to all the participants who took the time to submit an essay. LYREC will follow Avè's journey in June and looks forward to hearing about the Youth Tour and the impact of the experience on her personal and intellectual growth. ■

Nondiscrimination statement

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Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ■

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams





Maria Hodge, right, accepts a \$500 check from Operation Round Up Trustee **Wendy Johnson** on behalf of the Lower Yellowstone chapter of ABATE.



Operation Round Up Trustee **Angie Olson**, standing on the right, presents a \$2,500 check to **Dixie Sexton**, **Sarah Faiman**, **Buffy Olson** and **Kallie Candee** for the Annie Oakley Animal Rescue.

OPERATION ROUND UP: The spirit of giving

In 2024, Operation Round Up (ORU) awarded a total of \$11,250. This program, adopted by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) in 2017, allows members to round up their utility bills to the nearest dollar, with the extra cents contributing to the ORU fund. Each quarter, the ORU board reviews applications and allocates funds to nonprofit and community organizations within LYREC's service area.

In December, ORU granted \$2,500 to the Companion Animal Rescue of Eastern Montana, also known as the Annie Oakley Animal Rescue. The rescue focuses on saving abandoned pets, promoting cruelty prevention

and encouraging responsible pet care, including neutering, vaccinations, parasite control and veterinary care. The grant will be used to help secure a building for the rescue operations.

The Lower Yellowstone chapter of ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) received a \$500 grant to purchase new toys for underprivileged children in Richland County. ABATE has been distributing gifts to children for 28 years.

Thank you to our generous members for making Operation Round Up possible. Your small change creates a big impact in our community! ■



Wrapped in savings

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit www.energy.gov/insulation to learn

about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors such as climate, type of heating and cooling system and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption. ■



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Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
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Ryder Peterson	Journeyman Lineman
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