



ABIGAIL HECKER



LOGAN NELSON



KEELA KARY

2020 Youth Tour ambassadors named

In June, hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing. Participants will have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important to them. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is proud to announce it will be sending three students on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

The winners are: Keela Kary, Logan Nelson and Abigail Hecker. Keela, daughter of Eric and Kori Kary, is a sophomore at Sidney High School. Logan, son of Jason and Angie Nelson, is a junior at Savage High School. Abigail, daughter of Bill and Beth Hecker, is a sophomore and is homeschooled.

One of LYREC's cooperative principles is "education, training and information." LYREC wholeheartedly believes in investing in our young members.

"The students who have participated in the past have returned home with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be a leader and have put these skills

to use right here in our community," says Member Service Manager Jami Propp.

These three students were chosen because of their contribution to their community and well-written essays. They will join 30 other students from Montana in June to embark on the weeklong Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Congratulations Keela, Logan, and Abigail! ■

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ORU Trustee **Vonnie VanHook**, presents the Badlands Brushpoppers 4-H Club with a check for \$1,800. The funds will be used to build a bench at Sunnyside Cemetery and purchase concessions items for a memorial team roping event. All proceeds from the event will be donated to a person or organization in need.

Doing good through Operation Round Up

“To move forward, you have to give back.” This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) to the communities we serve.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Montana/North Dakota many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive - because just like you, we live here, too.

One of the ways LYREC gives back is by implementing Operation Round Up (ORU). ORU is a simple and rewarding way for its members to help support organizations throughout our community. On average, a member donates \$6 a year or 50 cents a month to ORU. During the last quarter of 2019, the ORU board of trustees awarded \$4,050 to nonprofits and community organizations.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our

mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. LYREC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. It can mean programs for youth, such as education scholarships or the electric cooperative Youth Tour. It means organizing coat and food drives or contributing to Operation Round Up - and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs, because of you and your neighbors. You empower LYREC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. By working together, we are certain that we can continue to do good things for our community. ■



ORU Chair **Dylan Klansa** presents **Sarah Foss** with a check for \$750 to assist with the cost of the new playground equipment at Rau School.



Bernie Braden receives a \$1,000 ORU grant from ORU Trustee **Mary Sundheim** on behalf of the Learning Volunteers for Adults. The donation will be used to update instructional materials and purchase access to enhanced online programs.



Jenny Rice is presented \$500 for St. Michael's Catholic Church by ORU Trustee **Jan Bloesser**. The funds will assist with the cost of landscaping.

Need assistance heating your home this winter?



The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota are accepting applications. These programs assist Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CDs, stocks and bonds.)

If you currently reside in Montana and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at www.lyrec.com or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. ■

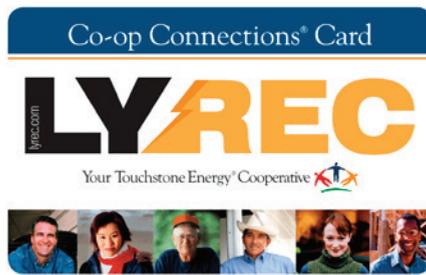


Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperatives (LYREC) CEO **Jason Brothen** presents the Sidney High School Eaglettes Cheer and Dance team with a check for \$1,000. LYREC donated \$500 and Basin Electric Power Cooperative matched the donation. The funds will go toward travel expenses to attend the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Florida.

Co-op Connections Discover the value of co-op membership!

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to be an integral part of the communities we serve. That's why we participate in the Co-op Connections Program, a program that helps you receive discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses. Find both in one convenient location at www.connections.coop. You will need to establish a FREE account when you visit the Co-op Connections website for the first time to access all the links and associated benefits.

The Co-op Connections Card keeps getting better. The program offers discounts on sporting events, concerts, travel, hotels, insurance, cash back shopping and more. Here are a few local businesses that participate in the program: Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites, Tap House Bar & Grill, Lone Tree Inn, Richland Inn & Suites,



Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham and Wingate by Wyndham.

Want to become a Co-op Connections participating business?

Interested in becoming a Co-op Connections participating business and receiving FREE marketing and advertising and increasing customer traffic to your location? All it takes is signing up to participate and providing LYREC members with a discount of your choosing at your business. If you are interested, contact LYREC at 406-488-1602.

Download the Co-op Connections app for free!

Try out our free mobile app and you'll have a digital card at your fingertips. Search "Co-op Connections" in Apple's App Store or on Google Play and download it today. ■



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Blade Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
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Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating report

Year to date:	December 2018	December 2019
Total miles energized	2,103	2,114
Total number of meters	6,157	6,183
Kilowatt-hours sold	260,782,541	278,973,227
Revenue	\$26,838,760	\$29,136,817
Total expenses	\$25,562,362	\$27,953,608
Operating margins	\$2,370,588	\$3,750,472