

Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 1, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates during the June 1 annual meeting.

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

The 2016 Nominating Committee consists of:

- Representing District 3, Craig Averett and Joy Buxbaum
- Representing District 4, Jim Basta and Steve Pust
- If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 3 or 4, and are interested in running for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be considered for nomination.



Redman



Schmierer

If you have a joint membership (memberships in more than one name), either member on the account can run for the board of trustees. If only your spouse's name is on the account, your spouse is the only one eligible to run for the board of trustees. A joint membership is only entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative.

Please contact Lower Yellowstone Electric's office at 406-488-1602 if you have any questions. ■

Co-op Connections Card saves members money

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) distributed the Co-op Connections Card to all of its members at the end of 2011.

Since the card was distributed, LYREC members have saved more than \$29,000 on prescriptions alone. The prescription portion of your card is not to be used in conjunction with your medical insurance, but it is for members without insurance or for medications your insurance will not cover.

There are no forms to complete and it costs you nothing! Simply provide your card to the pharmacist

when you are getting your prescriptions filled.

The Co-op Connections Card just got better. LYREC is joining forces with area businesses to help members save even more money.

So far, the Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites, Richland Inn & Suites, Tap House Bar & Grill, Wingate by Wyndham and the Microtel Inn & Suites are accepting the Co-op Connections Card for special savings. Go to www.connections.coop to see details. ■



Billing cycle changes

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be changing the billing cycle in 2016. The goal of this change is to have the current bill reflect the entire previous month's usage. For example, the bill that comes out in March will be for the month of February. To get this accomplished, LYREC has been adding a couple extra days to the bill each month since the November billing. The benefit of adding a couple days on each month's bill is so there is not such a significant jump in days billed on the March billing.

Beginning in March, the bills will be processed around the 5th of the month; this may vary depending on the weekends. The payments will be

due on the 20th of the month. If you have ACH or automatic payments, the funds will be debited from your account on the 15th of the month, rather than the fourth or the fifth.

LYREC offers several payment options for your convenience. If you would like to sign up for ACH, LYREC will need you to sign a form and provide a voided check. You will still get your bill in the mail every month, but your payment will automatically be debited from your checking account on the 15th of each month. This is fast, easy and secure!

Another option is e-bill. To access e-bill, log onto www.lyrec.com, and click on the "Online Bill Pay" tab. To sign up for e-bill, you will need your account number and an email address.

E-bill will send an email as soon as your bill is available. At that time, you can either pay your bill online or you can call the LYREC office and make a payment over the phone using your credit or debit card or your checking account. You will be able to view your current/past bills and usage information through e-bill.

LYREC also has two drop boxes for your convenience. One drop box is located at the LYREC office and the other is located on Second Ave. N.W. across the road from Reese and Ray's IGA.

If you have any questions regarding the billing changes or payment options, please call the LYREC office during regular business hours at 406-488-1602. (Meter 23253)

Youth Tour essay winner



Nelson

will be going on the 2016 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Owen will be one of the 20-plus Youth Tour winners

Owen Nelson, a student at Savage High School and the son of Jason and Angie Nelson, recently won the essay contest and

from across Montana.

Owen plays football and basketball for the Savage Warriors. He is also in track and is a member of the National Honor Society.

The Washington, D.C., 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 from across the United States join together in Washington, D.C.

This trip helps youth understand our

nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the many costs of those freedoms.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative believes in investing in today's youth. We are investing in our – and your – future. We know we have some of the brightest student's right here in our state, and we want to give them the opportunity to experience the past, present and future of our country.

Congratulations, Owen! ■

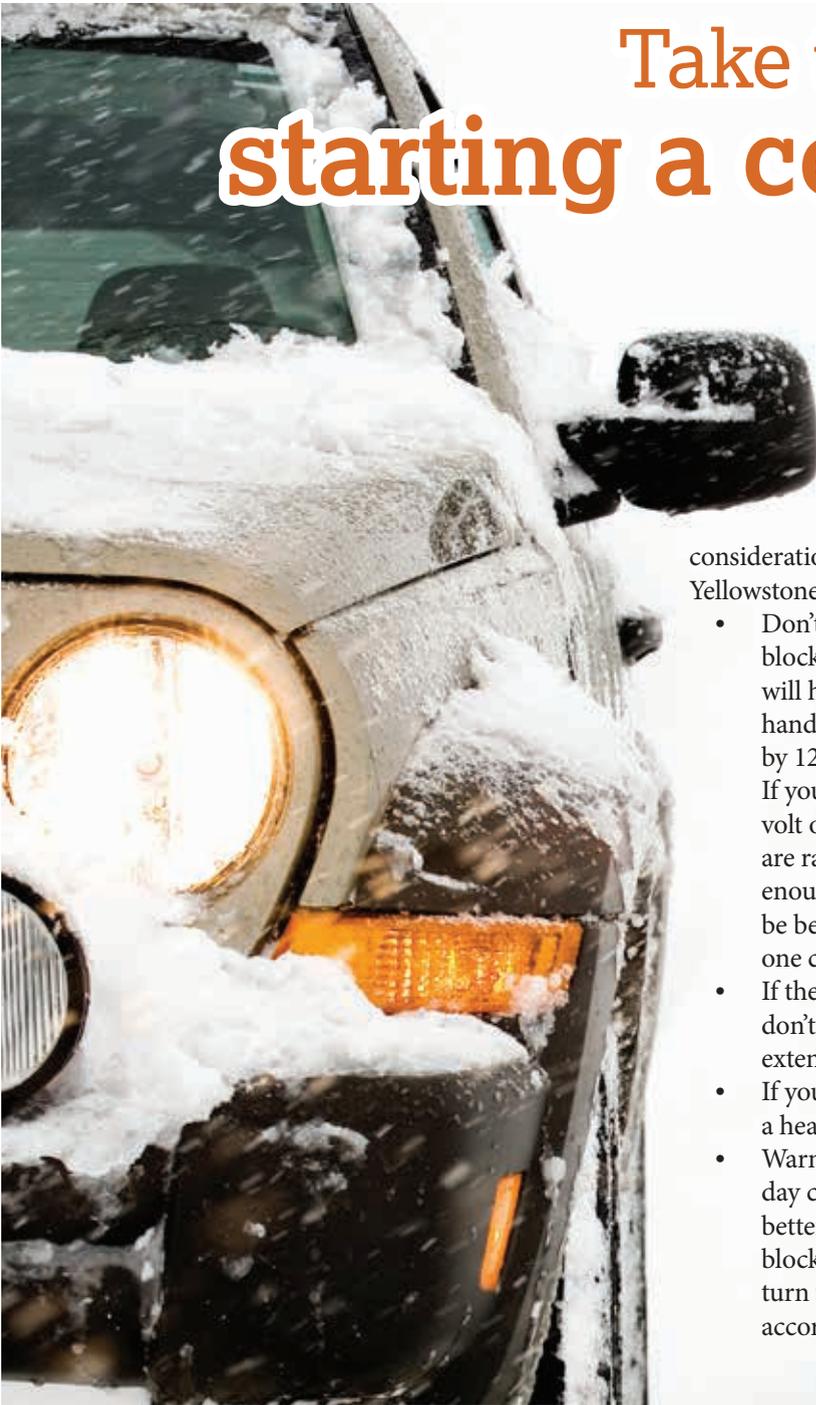
Statement of nondiscrimination

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Take the brrrr out of starting a cold vehicle

Will your vehicle start Monday morning when it's 30 degrees below zero? When your vehicle doesn't start due to frigid temperatures, it can be frustrating. That's why most area residents use an engine block heater on their vehicles. Engine block heaters keep your vehicle's motor warm, allowing an easy start on those cold mornings. But there are some considerations when using an engine block heater. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative offers these tips:

- Don't overload a circuit by plugging your engine block heater into just any outlet. A simple formula will help you decide how many watts one circuit can handle. Divide the wattage of the engine block heater by 120 volts to find out how many amps will be used. If you plug a 640-watt engine block heater into a 120-volt outlet, you are using 5.33 amps. Circuit breakers are rated in amps, so make sure the circuit has enough amps to carry the additional load. It might be best to use an exterior outlet that is protected by one circuit breaker and has ample capacity.
- If the engine block heater has a three-prong plug, don't alter it. Always leave the plug intact and attach extension cords correctly.
- If you use an extension cord outdoors, make sure it is a heavy-duty extension cord rated for outdoor use.
- Warming your engine all night and sometimes all day can use a significant amount of electricity. For better energy efficiency, purchase a timer for your block heater. A timer allows you to automatically turn the engine heater to on-and-off intervals according to your specifications. ■



Join us on Facebook!

If you would like to stay updated on what is happening at your cooperative, join us on Facebook. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will report on power outages, give energy efficiency tips, keep you updated on all the important news and much more.

Assistance is available

If you or someone you know needs help this heating season, funds are available. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. Montana residents may pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. Below are the income eligibility criteria for 2015-2016.

Number in household	Annual Income
1.....	\$23,540
2.....	\$31,860
3.....	\$40,180
4.....	\$48,500
5.....	\$56,820
6.....	\$65,140

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 (such as wages, Social Security/SSI, veterans' benefits, child support and 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.

Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in application denial.

If you turn in your application in February 2016; provide verification of income for February 2015 through January 2016.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, but you are still in need of financial assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 for other referrals. ■

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.



Operating report

Year to date:	October 2014	October 2015
Total miles energized	2,142	2,110
Total number of meters	5,980	6,104
Kilowatt-hours sold	198,481,205	222,984,521
Revenue	\$19,099,962	\$21,431,121
Total expenses	\$16,073,378	\$17,568,859
Operating margins	\$3,593,390	\$4,520,899

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TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen President
 Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
 John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Dennis Schmierer Trustee
 Dennis Nelson Trustee
 Jim Vitt Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen General Manager
 Brenda Bond Office Manager
 Jami Propp Member Services Coordinator
 Kyle Kavanagh Technology Coordinator
 Cassie Parker Office Administrator
 Margo Zadow Billing Administrator
 Pam Wilcoxon Staff Accountant
 Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
 Chris Hillesland Operations Manager
 Doug K. Hettich Asst. Mgr. of Operations
 Rich Gorde Foreman
 Eric McPherson Sub-Foreman
 Kevin Goff Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
 Kelly Keysor Engineering Staking Technician
 Lee Alvstad Journeyman Lineman
 Richard Tremblay Journeyman Lineman
 Aaron Eide Journeyman Lineman
 Bryan Franck Journeyman Lineman
 Jesse Obergfell Journeyman Lineman
 Dan Gieser Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
 Blade Jankovsky Apprentice Lineman
 Ryder Peterson Apprentice Lineman
 Tanner Roth Apprentice Lineman
 Mike Eberling Mechanic
 Bodrey Kindopp Staking Technician
 Corey Candee Electrical/IT Tech.
 Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
 Justin King Warehouse Worker

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