

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

Sheridan Electric Cooperative - Medicine Lake, Mont. 406-789-2231

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*Pictured are **Amy Ator**, Medicine Lake school board chairperson, **Josh Johnson** Medicine Lake school board member, and **Scott Westlund**, Sheridan Electric member service manager. Presented are the two checks to the Medicine Lake School District.*



*Pictured are **Don Hagen** and **Scott Westlund** on the presentation of \$8,000 with the promise of another \$4,000 from the CoBank Sharing Success program.*

Sheridan Electric steps in to help

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Boiler breakdowns in the middle of winter are something that all schools dread when they have these systems in place.

The Medicine Lake school saw such an event this winter. Knowing that school funding had decreased in the area, I approached Superintendent Tiffany Anderson.

Initial funds required for the repair were \$3,200. During the Sheridan Electric Cooperative board meeting, board members elected to donate \$3,200 to the school to offset the money used for the repair.

In addition, I learned that there is more to do on this boiler system to avoid further downtime in the future,

so I asked Basin Electric Power Cooperative (our power supplier) to match the funds that we had already donated. Basin Electric mailed a \$3,200 check immediately.

In another example, Scobey High School needed to upgrade the exit doors to security doors. The project cost was \$31,000. Now, Sheridan Electric wanted to help but did not have enough resources to cover the entire amount. So, the Sheridan Electric board approved a \$4,000 donation for the Scobey High School to help with the project. Basin Electric Power Cooperative again matched the \$4,000. The next step was to get involved in the CoBank Sharing Success program, which will

also match the local \$4,000 donation.

In essence we turned \$4,000 into \$12,000 to assist Scobey with this much-needed project.

Your cooperative is always there to help the community when there is a need. Do schools rank higher in some cases? Yes, because they are teaching our legacies for the future.

This concern for community is one of our seven cooperative principles, and one we take seriously. We spend an enormous amount of time looking for ways to help our service territory communities. This comes in the form of monetary aid when needed. It also comes in the form of teaching life skills, such as interview skills or essay skills. It also comes in the form of leadership development.

We are here for the territory communities, even though we do not necessarily serve them all. ■

Planning for the future

BY SCOTT WESTLUND



Everyone should plan for the future, both long term and short term. Long-term goals are all about retirement and how to enjoy life after work, while short-term is all about how we survive tomorrow.

This is the time of year to be thinking about a garden to augment your food plans for the upcoming summer and winter.

I have found that planting many of one vegetable each year shows a good mix in the canning room when the needs arrive - beans one year, corn another, cucumber another and so on. I have also learned that some plants do well with others during

the growing season, if you plan a mixed garden. For example, planting cucumbers next to corn gives them something to climb on without building racks. Onions and carrots do well together as long as you plant next to a tall vegetable plant. Pole beans and corn offer this type of shading to keep moisture in the area.

Pumpkins, on the other hand, seem to do well by themselves, slowly crawling through the rows and doing their thing. Plants next to them seem to starve for sunlight.

Potatoes and zucchini – well, you know about them. Plant them and you have more than you need, which

is always a good problem to have.

Now onto your freezer. If you were lucky enough to hunt for meat for your freezer, you couldn't have a healthier meat anywhere. Venison is low in fat and good in this area. It is at the top of my list for my favorite meal.

After three years of a great garden, I will plant something that will be donated to the kids of Froid.

The entire ground will be pumpkins. Normal and giants will be for kids to come and pick their own.

The canning room is full. The freezer is full, and I have spent the last winter trapping predators for a personal desire to augment income and assist members when I am called.

As with several of my friends in western Montana and most people from this area, I firmly believe that if you find a hobby that provides for the family, you have a great hobby.

We live in a unique area that provides us with most of what we need right from the land around us. Low in population, yet high in resource, we have what most people dream of and yet cannot realize.

Take the time to note the treasures that surround us. ■

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Mission statement- untangled and defined

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

The mission of Sheridan Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable electric service to members at a competitive price. It is also the co-op's mission to continually seek ways to expand the customer base to benefit the overall economic condition of the cooperative service territory. It is the mission to accomplish this with a highly trained and efficient staff in conjunction with a well-informed membership.

Sheridan Electric's mission statement encompasses what we are all about. Let's untangle the statement and talk about what each part means and why.

The mission of Sheridan Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable electric service to members at a competitive price.

This statement is a promise to

safely do everything possible to provide electrical service to the membership of the cooperative. Members consist of owners of the cooperative. You are the owners. It is our duty to execute your wishes, through the board of directors, to provide this service. This can come through new infrastructure, new acquisitions and managing a streamlined cooperative staffing.

It is also the co-op's mission to continually seek ways to expand the customer base to benefit the overall economic condition of the cooperative service territory.

This part of the mission states that we will explore every opportunity to expand the member base of the cooperative within its boundaries. This could mean buildouts to new businesses, new shops or any new load that can offset costs back to the

core membership.

It is the mission to accomplish this with a highly trained and efficient staff in conjunction with a well-informed membership.

The CEO and the board of directors have taken steps to hire the best. In each of the respective departments, we have the best. Billing, collections, lineworkers, electricians, work order clerk and receptionists are all the best. It has been a trial to get to the point where we are now with these folks, but the stage is set for phenomenal years ahead.

The mission statement is long, but encompassing. It is our pledge to you, the membership, that we will do our best to provide the best service we can to you within this service territory. ■

Scholarships awarded

Every year, Sheridan Electric has the honor of awarding scholarships to extraordinary young people to assist them in higher education opportunities. We have three scholarships that we either directly control or facilitate through our power supplier. The Sheridan Electric Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship awarded to six individuals. The lineworker/electrician scholarship is designed to send an outstanding individual to either lineworker or electrician school, and the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to the individual who sets the bar from the entire service territory.

Our honorees for the Sheridan Electric \$2,000 scholarship:

- Morgan Mason
- Cassidy Bummer

- Ally Bummer
- Rachel Juel
- Aalyah Moon
- Abigail Ator

Our honoree for the Basin Electric \$1,000 scholarship:

- Cassidy Bummer

Our honoree for the Sheridan Electric lineworker scholarship:

- Hunter Bowker

All of these scholarships are renewable through the application process next year.

We want to thank all individuals who applied for these coveted programs and wish all the best for the future. ■

Lighting to be given away



In the spirit of efficiency, Sheridan Electric Cooperative is giving away light-emitting diodes (LEDs) each month. Each month's winner will receive 12 new LED bulbs.

So this month, take a moment to complete and mail the coupon. Maybe you'll be this month's lucky winner and save on your energy costs. Good luck. ■

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

*Congratulations to **Glen Larsen** for winning this month's light giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	February 2017	February 2018
Total miles of line	2,833	2,831
Consumers billed	3,085	3,095
Kilowatt-hours purchased	12,207,934	14,104,474
Kilowatt-hours sold	10,700,476	13,227,724
Average KWH per residential consumer	1,410	1,936
Average bill per residential consumer	\$125.60	\$152.18
Cost of purchased power	\$636,188	\$637,963
Margins year to date	\$578,071	\$503,433

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	February 2017	February 2018
Weather	5	3
Age or deterioration	0	2
Animals and public	0	1
Power supplier	0	0
Equipment	0	0

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	February 2017	February 2018	Year to date
Pole installations	1	2	3
New construction	865 ft.	0 ft.	2,488 ft.
Miles driven	22,288	14,782	34,942
New accounts	1	0	0
Accounts retired	0	0	0

SHERIDAN ELECTRIC CO-OP

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TRUSTEES

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Rod Smith, V. President Dagmar, Mont.
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Alan Danelson, Trustee Scobey, Mont.
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Rick A. Hansen, Trustee Froid, Mont.
Harlan Skillingberg, Trustee Plentywood, Mont.

EMPLOYEES

Rick Knick Manager
Riley Tommerup Office Mgr./Accountant
Scott Westlund Marketing/Member Service Manager
Pam Lund Billing Supervisor
Jamie Ator Accountant
Lisa Salveold Office Assistant
Tasha Ronnes Customer Service Representative
Torie Waller Work Order Clerk
Kory Opp Line Superintendent
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406-789-2231

OFFICE HOURS: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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