

F E R G U S

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

It's that time of year: Cooperative business travel season

THIS is the time of year that my travel schedule for cooperative business meetings becomes quite chaotic.

In early July I spent four days in New York City at a conference with our banking institution. This conference provides insight into where our economy is headed and how geopolitics impact the financial industry.

The following week I met with representatives of the National Forest Service in White Sulphur Springs to continue conversations on utility right of way and routing of powerlines.

I then traveled with three of our directors to Sidney for the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association summer board meeting. This is a quarterly opportunity for electric cooperatives throughout the state to meet up and discuss legislative outcomes and cooperative business matters.

A few days later I met with utility leaders throughout the state to collaborate with Montana Department of Transportation officials on suggestions and implementation of new statutes recently signed into law.

In late July, I met with our power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, in Deadwood, S.D., to understand their load growth opportunities and upcoming investments in additional generation assets. We also discussed and provided feedback on upcoming rate increases in wholesale power. I



Carson Sweeney sits next to Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) CEO Mark Lambrecht and Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative General Manager Doug Hardy at the MECA's summer board meeting in Sidney.

use this information to provide a financial outlook of our cooperative for our board of directors to understand and consider. Upon board approval, I will communicate this information to our members.

I share all of this with you to provide insight on the many different topics and entities across the country that we are working with on behalf of our cooperative members. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work in partnerships with so many different entities all while being supported by a professional and impressive staff

of employees that diligently keep the lights on each day. As our electric cooperative continues to grow, we are investing in additional staff to support our day-to-day operations. Please check our website for job opportunities and let us know if you know someone that would be a great fit in our organization.

Throughout all my travels I am quickly reminded of how lucky we are to live in beautiful central Montana, surrounded by kind and generous people. A sunset in hectic New York city doesn't hold a candle to our Big Sky sunsets! RM

PLAN AHEAD: SCHEDULE YOUR PROJECT NOW

The schedule is filling up, so if you have a project for 2025, contact us soon

It is August already. The fair is behind us and soon school will be back in session. Everyone at Fergus Electric Cooperative is busy, our mechanic is keeping the fleet of transportation equipment serviced and running smoothly. The office and operations staff assist the members by phone and in person. Lewistown and Roundup line crews and engineers continue to be busy with multiple maintenance projects, and with fulfilling the requests of our members who want a new powerline constructed, or their security lights repaired.

This summer is exceptionally busy, as evidenced by the engineers' large project board being filled. The engineers and line crews are taking full advantage of the beautiful summer weather, working to complete and cross off as many jobs as possible on their lengthy list of projects. Summer and fall are especially busy, productive times of the year for Fergus Electric. If you have a project that you still hope to complete this year, we recommend that you contact the engineers now to discuss your plans. RM

THE FERGUS ELECTRIC CREWS ARE HARD AT WORK



Fergus Electric lineworkers Darek Dygert and Travis Sura work in the Ruby Gulch area. | PHOTO BY MARK SCHWOMEYER



Foreman Owen Thatcher digs in an underground powerline up Swimming Woman Road. | **PHOTO BY DYLAN RICKMAN**



Mechanic Slim Mills' skills are put to good use. | **PHOTO BY BRET OPHUS**



Lineman Darek Dygert works on a powerline in the Ruby Gulch area. | **PHOTO BY MARK SCHWOMEYER**



Dylan Rickman works on an underground powerline job up Swimming Woman Road | **PHOTO BY OWEN THATCHER**



ROW Groundman Jake deRosier has fire prevention on his mind as he trims or removes trees in the co-op's rights-of-way. | **FERGUS ELECTRIC PHOTO**

THE CREWS ARE HARD AT WORK



Working in the Ruby Gulch area. | PHOTO BY MARK SCHWOMEYER

Labor Day CLOSURE

Fergus Electric Cooperative's
offices in Lewistown and
Roundup will be closed
Monday, September 1



IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$34.00 CREDIT

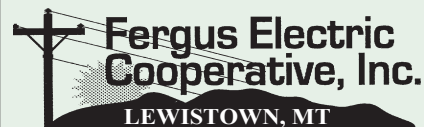
If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number, and you will receive a \$34.00 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 397377, Account 377860
Account 321681, Account 318264
Account 395198, Account 395865**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Alice Smith of Lewistown, **Stephen Gilpatrick** of Hilger, and **Donald Bren** of Lewistown were last month's winners.

*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

FOR OUTAGES

First: Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

Second: Check the breaker below the meter.

Third: If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

Fourth: Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Tyson Ruff	406-366-9830
Bret Ophus	406-366-7523
Bret Nelleremoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson.....	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

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Bret Ophus Line Superintendent

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Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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award-winning newsletter.*