

FERGUS

FEATURES

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

2025 LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

To the delight and joy of students and parents alike, at our 2025 Annual Meeting, Fergus Electric's Board of Directors awarded each student who submitted their Luck of the Draw Scholarship application by the June 3 deadline, attended the annual meeting in person and provided their college/vo-tech information with a \$1,000 scholarship. Scholarships are paid on the students' behalf directly to the college, vo-tech or other trade school in which they had enrolled.

In 2022, the personal representative of the Charlie Guinn/ Susan Knedler

estate generously donated estate capital credits to be used for scholarships. In addition to the estate capital credits and unclaimed capital credits, Fergus Electric has awarded 10, \$1,000 Luck of the Draw scholarships annually as well.

During the 2025 Annual Meeting, General Manager Carson Sweeney spoke to the members about the new Cooperative Scholarship program, which allows a member to complete a form designating how they would like their capital credits distributed in the future. The form includes an option

to designate beneficiaries, or to gift your capital credits to this wonderful scholarship program to help support scholarships opportunities for students whose parents/guardians are members of Fergus Electric Cooperative.

Since our June 5 Annual Meeting, we have received thank-you cards from many of the students who expressed their gratitude for the scholarships they received.

Each student has shared their personal career goals, in their own words. We wish them all the best in their future. Congratulations!

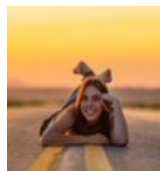
THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS BY GRADUATING SCHOOL



Allison Elings

BILLINGS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Allison Elings is attending Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Her course of study will be exercise science. Allison boarded with a host family in Billings for her senior year to pursue her swimming goals. Prior to her senior year, she was enrolled as a homeschool student. Allison said, "My current career goals are to swim and graduate with an associate degree at IWCC then transfer to a D1 college to continue to swim and become a doctor of physical therapy."



Callie Donaldson

DENTON PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Callie Donaldson is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and studying occupational therapy. "I hope to receive my degree in occupational therapy. After that, I plan to use my degree in rural Montana!"



Carson Barta

FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL

Carson Barta is attending the University of Montana – Western in Dillon and studying business. "I hope to use my degree to come back to Lewistown and fill a

management position. From there I hope to open a charter fishing business on the Columbia River and deep sea."

Lexya Burnham is attending Rocky Mountain College – Billings and studying biology and business. "I would like to pursue a career in dentistry, hygienist or orthodontist. I would like to own my own practice in rural Montana."



Lexya Burnham

Regan Comes is attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, where she will study biology. "I hope to find my passion, so that someday I can give back to the community that has helped me grow. As of now I plan to pursue a doctor of chiropractic (DC) degree, but only God knows what my future will hold."



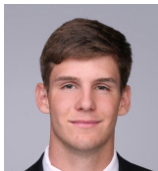
Regan Comes

Madeline Denton is attending Montana State University - Bozeman - where she is working to earn her Bachelor of Science in nursing. "I plan to earn my Bachelor of Science in nursing then I will gain a year of experience working in the ICU. Lastly, I will attend anesthesia school to become a nurse anesthetist (CRNA)."



Madeline Denton

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Abram Friesen

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Abram Friesen is attending Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, and studying biology. "I hope to make a career by continuing my business or starting a new one. My goals are to find work that I love while having the means to help myself and others."



Gabriel Jonathan Gee

Gabriel Jonathan Gee is attending Montana State University - Billings and studying secondary english arts. Gee said, "With my major in mind, I wish to eventually become an English teacher." He continued, "I believe education is an important element in people's lives, and I want to help people flourish."



Peyton T Hartford

Peyton T Hartford is attending Rocky Mountain College - Billings and studying accounting. Asked about his career goals, Peyton wants to eventually start an accounting firm in Montana and give back to the community.



June LePage

June LePage is attending the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington, where she is working toward earning her medical doctorate. "I am a medical student participating in the WWAMI program, with a focus on rural care. After schooling, I intend to return to Montana to work as a physician."



Mitchel LePage

Mitchel LePage is attending Carroll College in Helena and studying biology. "I want to be a physician in rural Montana. This will allow me to uplift my community and individuals."



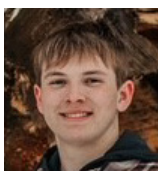
Kate Maxwell

Kate Maxwell is attending North Dakota State University in Fargo and studying animal biomedical sciences. "I want to get a Bachelor of Science in animal biomedical sciences. After that I plan to attend veterinary school. When I get my doctorate, I will move back to Lewistown and practice."



Megan Maxwell

Megan Maxwell is attending North Dakota State University in Fargo and studying dietetics (nutrition science). "I want to obtain my masters in dietetics, become a registered dietitian, and then travel around and offer my services to people in need. I specifically want to work with women and girls and help them overcome food and weight stigmas. My end goal is to empower women by teaching them how to be comfortable in their bodies and fuel their bodies, so they can achieve their own dreams and goals."



Parker J Miner

Parker J Miner is attending Montana Technological University in Butte, where he will study welding technology.

Brookelynn Ruckman is attending University of Montana - Western in Dillon and studying secondary education and modern history. Ruckman's goal is to graduate from the University of Montana - Western with a double major in secondary education and

modern history, and a minor in business and computer applications. "I then plan to come back to central Montana to become a high school history and finance teacher."

Lani Ruckman is attending the Montana Academy of Salons in Great Falls to study cosmetology. "My biggest career goal is to graduate from cosmetology school, then come back to Lewistown to serve in the community I grew up in. A long-term goal is to own my own salon in Lewistown."

Dashel Ruff is attending Montana Technological University in Butte to study civil engineering. "Within the next four years I plan to graduate from Montana Tech and receive a civil engineering degree. After college, I hope to return to Lewistown and work for a local contractor."

Wylee Snapp is attending Montana State University - Northern in Havre and studying electrical. "My goal is to get my journeyman's license and be a successful guy."

Allie Uecker is attending Sheridan College in Wyoming where she will earn an associate degree in nursing and in sonography. "I plan to complete nursing school as well as a sonography program! With these degrees, I will be serving Lewistown in the hospital working as a labor and delivery nurse as well as a certified sonographer."

Anna Welsh is attending Montana State University - Billings and studying computer science. "I plan to attend MSU-Billings in the fall where I will get an associate's degree in web applications at City College."

Logan Welsh is attending Montana State University - Northern in Havre and studying welding and metals manufacturing. "I am looking forward to improving my welding skills and learning more about metals manufacturing."

HARLOWTON HIGH SCHOOL

Angus Glennie is attending Montana State University - Bozeman and studying Mechanical Engineering. "I want to graduate MSU with a degree in mechanical engineering. After I graduate, I want to work in the aerospace or automotive fields."

HOBSON HIGH SCHOOL

Leon Aminkeng is attending Montana State University - Bozeman and studying electrical engineering. "I would like to pursue optics and work with lasers and other similar avenues."

Sawyer Campbell is attending Montana State University - Northern in Havre and studying diesel technology and working to earn a welding certificate. "I plan to get my Bachelor of Science degree in diesel technology and welding technology and



Brookelynn Ruckman



Leon Aminkeng



Lani Ruckman



Sawyer Campbell



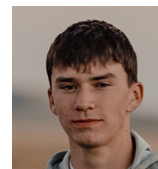
Dashel Ruff



Ashton Deegan



Wylee Snapp



Thomas James Hickey



Allie Uecker



Jackson Swanz



Anna Welsh



Cole Carlson



Logan Welsh



Andrew Cox



Angus Glennie



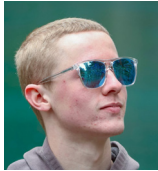
Mazie Davidson



Brynlee Epperson

then see what my options are in the world. I plan to open my own shop and come back to our family farm/ranch and settle."

Ashton Deegan is attending MSU – Bozeman and studying agricultural business and precision agriculture. "My career goals are to work on our family farm, improve farm efficiency and work with an equipment company with GPS equipment."



Caden Epperson

Thomas James Hickey is attending Montana State University - Bozeman and studying animal science. "I am enrolled in the College of Agriculture and majoring in animal science. I plan to work in the cattle industry while continuing to develop my own herd of registered Angus cattle."



Adysen Cundiff

Jackson Swanz is attending Carroll College in Helena and studying environmental biology. "I would like to use my education and continue to study fire sciences. With a goal to pursue a job in fire prevention, firefighting and fire sciences."

HOMESCHOOL

Cole Carlson is attending Great Falls College - Montana State University and is enrolled in the Welding Technology Certificate of Applied Science Program. "I would like to continue to work for Spika Design and Manufacturing and use the welding skills I will learn in college here in central Montana."



Kate Martin

Andrew Cox is attending Montana Tech – Butte and studying mining engineering. "My goal is to complete my Bachelor's Degree in mining engineering. After that, I will begin working as an engineer in the mining industry."



Lily Vickers

Mazie Davidson is attending New Saint Andrew's College in Moscow, Idaho, to receive a liberal arts degree. "I want to be a wife and a mother. A liberal arts degree will help me homeschool my children."

Brynlee Epperson is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and is studying biology. "I want to be successful, guide others toward success and gain confidence in being independent providing for myself. Although I am not 100 percent on my major, I know college will help me develop new ideas, meet new people and kickstart the next chapter of my life."

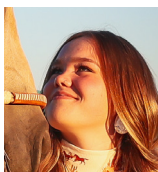


Tyler Icard

Caden Epperson is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and is studying business marketing and digital photography. "My current goal is to become proficient in digital marketing. I hope to work with Red Bull or a similar action sport company in the future."

MOORE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Adysen Cundiff is attending Great Falls College - Montana State University and studying to be a veterinary technician. "Career goals are to continue working and learning at Horizon Veterinary Clinic. When not at the clinic or doing schoolwork, I will continue working on the family ranch. I hope to bring what I learn everywhere I go to benefit many people."



Royce Holzer

Kate Martin is attending the University of Montana – Western in Dillon and studying biology. "My career goals are to complete my undergraduate at University of Montana - Western. I plan to do an internship



McKenzie Milburn

Continued on next page



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

Wholesale power rates are rising, I'll keep you updated

In recent meetings with our power supplier, we were notified that wholesale power costs are expected to increase between 10 percent and 20 percent beginning January 1. It is our intention to proactively update our members and give you as much notice as possible on the upcoming rate increase. During that meeting we advocated against such a large increase and to instead spread the increase across several years in a stepped approach.

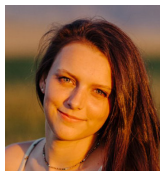
To help readers understand our budget process, I need to provide context on dates and schedules. As I author this article, it is the end of July. Publishing schedules require me to write my Manager's Message approximately one month before our members read it in print. This creates an unfortunate lag in the communication process. With that in mind, I expect our power supplier to provide us with the final 2026 wholesale rates in mid-August. I also expect the wholesale cost increase to be closer to the 10 percent range than 20 percent.

Once we have the final rate from our power supplier, we will then calculate the impact on our annual wholesale power costs and begin developing our operating budget for 2026.

Once our forecast budgets are completed, I can then develop 2026 electric rates to support the operating budgets and strategic capital investment plan. I will then present them to our Board of Directors for consideration and approval. After board approval, I will communicate our 2026 rates to the membership.

Throughout this process I will estimate the approximate percentage increase for our October issue of *Rural Montana*. I will have final 2026 rates for our membership in the December *Rural Montana* issue. I anticipate that the new rates for 2026 will go into effect on January 1.

Please continue to read the *Fergus Features* section of your monthly *Rural Montana* magazine to stay informed. As members ourselves, our team is working hard on solutions to minimize the upcoming rate increase. RM



Abbie Arntzen

Continued from previous page

while I am there. I have also committed to run cross country and track and field. I plan to attend graduate school at Washington State. I would like to come back to central Montana to pursue veterinary."

ROUNDUP HIGH SCHOOL

Lily Vickers is attending Carroll College in Helena and studying anthrozoology. "I'm not entirely sure what I want to do. I just know I want to work with animals. This degree sets me up for almost any animal-related career."

SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL

Tyler Icard is attending Rocky Mountain College in Billings and studying biology/pre-med. "My goal is to finish my biology/pre-med degree at Rocky Mountain College. Then I plan to attend medical school. My ultimate goal is to become an anesthesiologist."

STANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Royce Holzer is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and studying business management combined with kinesiology. "I'd like to become an athletic trainer and hope to someday open a training facility."

McKenzi Milburn is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and studying nursing. "My goal is to get a degree in nursing and become a travel nurse to see the world. I then plan to return to rural Montana."

WINIFRED HIGH SCHOOL

Abbie Arntzen is attending University of Montana – Western in Dillon and studying elementary education. "My career is to become an elementary teacher. I would also like to teach in a rural school, so that I could be in a community like the one I grew up in."

Cody Cochran is attending University of Montana – Missoula and studying music – vocal performance, and finance. "I plan to invest in real estate and note investing. My mom and I are already doing this and hope to achieve financial freedom."

Isabelle Edwards is attending University of Montana – Missoula and studying psychology. "I plan to become a counselor or therapist."

Hannah Ewen is attending Montana Technological University in Butte and studying chemistry. "My career goal is to find a good job during or after college, and to enjoy what I do while making a good income."

Joel Warneke is attending Montana Technological University in Butte and studying mechanical engineering. "I hope to one day work in research and development of agricultural equipment. I have also considered working on construction and mining equipment."

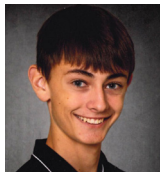
Wyatt Wickens is attending Miles Community College in Miles City and studying automotive technology. "My career goals are to graduate college with as many skills as possible. The reason for that is so I will know how to do more things, and it opens a lot of opportunities for starting a business."

WINNETT HIGH SCHOOL

Hayley Stahl is attending Montana State University – Bozeman and studying agriculture business. "I am looking to finish out my college career at Montana State with a study/internship abroad in Germany. From there, I want to grow the family farm as I start creating my own agriculture business."

MONTANA TECH UNIVERSITY, BUTTE

Molly Yager is attending University of Montana – Alexander Blewett III School of Law in Missoula and studying law. "My current career goals are to graduate law school and practice as an attorney thereafter. I've worked as a petroleum landman for the past two years, so I may decide to specialize as an oil and gas attorney to stay within that industry."



Cody Cochran



Isabelle Edwards



Hannah Ewen



Joel Warneke



Wyatt Wickens



Hayley Stahl



Molly Yager

IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$34.00 CREDIT

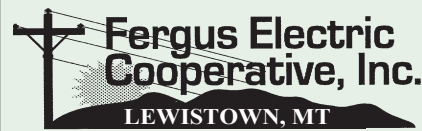
If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number, and you will receive a \$34.00 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 210250, Account 395441
Account 398684, Account 398381
Account 398249, Account 163804**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Theresa Abegglen of Garneill and **John C Anderson** 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:

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Bret Ophus Line Superintendent
Sally Horacek Office Manager
Janine Rife Didier.....Editor
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