



Gifts from the heart

It's that time of year again. December is here, along with all the joys of Christmas. What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Is it the Christmas parties, the striking lights decorating your neighborhood, the Christmas feasts you share with your family and friends or the gift of giving?

For the fortunate, Christmas is full of celebrations, spending time with their loved ones and giving to others. For the not so fortunate, it can be a very difficult time of year. The notion of their little ones waking up Christmas morning without a present from Santa is heartbreaking. Having a holiday feast with family and friends is unfeasible. If your family is in need this Christmas season, Gifts from the Heart can help bring the magic to your home.

Gifts From the Heart collects

donations from individuals and businesses in the community to help families in need bring joy to their Christmas season. From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, a parent or guardian can stop at the Masonic Lodge (on Main Street across from the courthouse) in Sidney, Mont., and shop for their children. The only requirement is that the child (ages 0-18) must live with the shopper and also in Richland County.

Each parent gets to choose a clothing item, a toy or larger item, and a stocking stuffer for each child in their household. In addition, each family receives a family game and an age-appropriate book along with a box of food.

If your family does not reside in Richland County, the Lower Yellowstone chapter of ABATE (American

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Bikers Aiming Toward Education) has funds to help you. Please contact Maria at 406-480-3597 if you do not live in Richland County, but feel you need help this Christmas season.

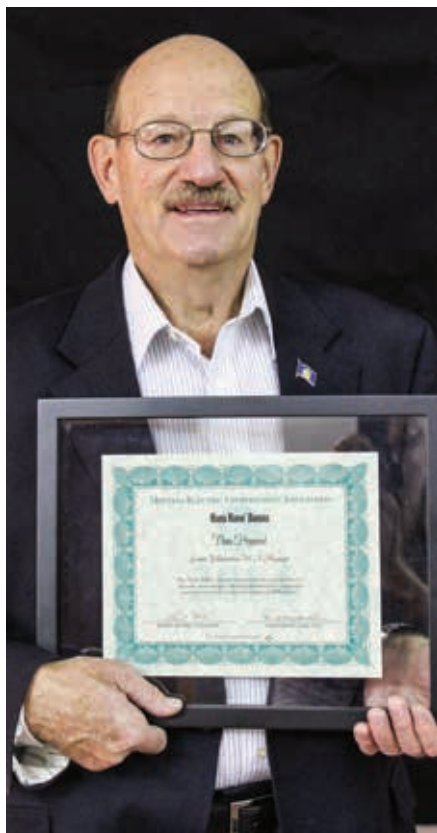
For those of you who would like to make a memorable Christmas for a family this year, there are several ways you can help. The area banks will be taking donations of new hats and mittens to be given to each child who receives a gift. If you would like to purchase a gift for donation, you may go to the participating businesses in Richland County, choose a tag off the tree, and the sponsor of the tree



will deliver the unwrapped gift. You can also make a financial donation to the Stockman Bank in Sidney, Mont. New and unwrapped items may be dropped off at the Masonic Temple from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12.

Food baskets will be available for participants who need food for the holiday. Baskets for senior citizens will also be distributed. If you know of seniors in need, please call 406-433-7421 to get them put on the list.

With the combined services of several organizations, Gifts from the Heart brought the magic back into the season of 120 families and 310 kids in 2013. (Meter 7946) ■



Prevoost recipient of the Hard Ridin' Award

Hard Ridin' Award. The Hard Ridin' Award is presented to a co-op trustee or employee who has demonstrated exceptional character and perseverance amidst extraordinary difficulties. Don Prevoost, general manager/CEO of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, was nominated and chosen for the Hard Ridin' Award. President Allen Thiessen, included the following in his nomination letter:

"Don began his career at Lower Yellowstone on Dec. 16, 1970, fresh out of college, as the office manager. In the spring of 1997, he was willing to fill in as interim manager, and later that fall was selected as being the best person to fill the manager's position. Since that time, he has faithfully guided our cooperative through both sparse times and an oil boom, keeping it both physically and financially sound. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative has not had a rate increase

since 1992 and our equity has gone from 26 percent to over 60 percent.

"Don has gone above and beyond, donating time to the statewide, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association programs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative programs, and also served double duty when asked to be the interim manager of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative for several months.

"Don has earned and enjoyed the respect and support of the board and staff, as he tackled the challenges related to growth and serving our membership. Even after 44 years of service, he approaches challenges with determination and enthusiasm.

In the middle of all of this, he raised a fine family, served on the school board and is enjoying his role as a grandfather."

Congratulations, Don! ■

Each year at the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association's (MECA) annual meeting, individuals are nominated for the



Scholarships available

Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) memorial scholarship applications are now available.

- The applicant's parents or guardians must be members of Lower Yellowstone Electric.
- The scholarship applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

To get applications and more information, contact your school counselor, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative or download the application at: www.lyrec.com under "My Community" then "Scholarships."

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative must receive applications NO LATER THAN Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. ■

Are you finding yourself falling behind with your bills? Don't wait until it's too late!



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 you receive assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. Below is the income eligibility criteria for 2014-2015.

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$21,702
2.....	\$28,379
3.....	\$35,057
4.....	\$41,734
5.....	\$48,412
6.....	\$55,089

To process your application, you will need a copy of your most recent fuel bill, 12 months of income verification for all persons in the household (wages, Social Security/SSI, VA, child support, 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. If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income, you will need your SSI award letter.

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 December 2014, provide verification of income for December 2013 through November 2014. ■

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

Warehouse worker hired

Justin King has accepted a position as Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) warehouse worker. Justin was born and raised in Sidney. He and his wife, Katherine, have a son, Ethan, 5, and a daughter, Sara, 3.

Prior to working at LYREC, Justin owned his own company, REM Concrete, doing



contract work for Sidney Red-E-Mix.

Justin worked with Sidney-Red-E-Mix for a total of 21 years. Justin has volunteered on the Sidney Fire Department for the past 15 years, and he is currently the Deputy City Chief. Justin enjoys spending time with his family, being

on the fire department, and hunting in his spare time. ■

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 Electric pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit. ■

ATTENTION!

Do you or a loved one depend on electricity for medical equipment?

If you depend on electricity for medical equipment, such as an oxygen machine or nasal CPAP, please contact our office at 406-488-1602 or email us at lyrec@lyrec.com.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric

Cooperative (LYREC) wants to be able to keep our members informed of planned power outages.

If you are one of the individuals who needs electricity for medical reasons, LYREC urges you to purchase a generator for unforeseen power outages.

Lower Yellowstone's office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Happy holidays!

LYREC

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

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

Donald J. Prevost	General Manager
Jason Brothen	Assistant Manager
Scott D. Johnson	Mgr. of Office Services
Jami Propp	Member Services Coordinator
Brenda Bond	Staff Accountant
Margo Zadow	Billing Administrator
Pam Wilcoxon	Cashier/Receptionist
Chris Hillesland	Operations Manager
Doug K. Hettich	Asst. Mgr. of Operations
Rich Gorde	Sub-Foreman
Kevin Goff	Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
Kelly Keysor	Engineering Staking Technician
Eric McPherson	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Alvstad	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser	Journeyman Lineman
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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 