



Christian Prevost

Prevost wins scholarship

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association, along with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, congratulates Christian Prevost, this year's winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship.

Christian is the son of Charles and Martha Prevost, Lambert, Mont. Christian is planning to attend Montana Tech or Montana State University, to pursue a degree in either mechanical engineering or physical therapy. Christian has been active in football, basketball, FFA, Business Professionals of America, band, 4-H, track and field, and the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Although Christian has kept himself busy with his extracurricular activities, he has also managed to find time to work on his family farm/ranch.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to apply for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship. If you were not selected this year, you may apply again next year. Lower Yellowstone will also offer many scholarship opportunities at the upcoming 78th annual meeting. Bring a parent and join us, June 4, at the annual meeting.

Congratulations, Christian! ■

Operations department goes to summer hours

Beginning Monday, April 7, the operations department will be working from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

If you have any projects that you need scheduled, please call the operations department Monday through Thursday. The line crew will be

available only for outages on Fridays. The office hours will remain the same throughout the summer, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The life of a lineworker



Turning game systems off saves energy



Heating assistance deadline April 30

The life of a **LINEWORKER**



They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee, and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office for the day's orders, the lineworkers climb into their trucks and head to their assigned jobs. Our lineworkers form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power – and the men and women who provide it – for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Lineworkers have to work safely, smartly and efficiently – all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, our lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses in Montana and North Dakota. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatcher calls the crews to report a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineworker's to-do list. These brave lineworkers are always on call. We have crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or the wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you it's time to go to work? You look outside, the wind is whipping and the thermometer is reading 30 below. Our lineworkers face harsh elements on a regular basis, all to serve you.

Lineworkers always need to focus on safety; the lives of their co-workers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no mistakes or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons lineworkers form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of your co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our cooperative principles is cooperation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, we can count on our neighboring cooperatives.

Lineworkers are highly trained to be ready to respond, no matter the situation or weather conditions. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment also gets tested regularly.

These highly skilled workers light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. Lower Yellowstone Electric lineworkers are the heart of the co-op nation, proud and strong. ■



GAME OVER

TURN gaming consoles off to save energy

More than 40 percent of homes have video game console systems, and many of those devices are left on all the time. Surprisingly, most gaming systems use nearly as much power in idle mode as when they are actually being played. Turning them off could save gamers about \$100 a year. In fact, gaming systems use more than \$1 billion worth of energy a year, which is enough to power a major city for the year.

The easiest and most effective way to save energy is to **TURN OFF** and **UNPLUG** the device when it's not being used.

What else can you do to make sure your video game system isn't driving up your electricity bill? Here are a few tips:

- Use the power saver mode. If you have a PlayStation or Xbox, you can save energy by selecting the auto power-

down option in your system preferences.

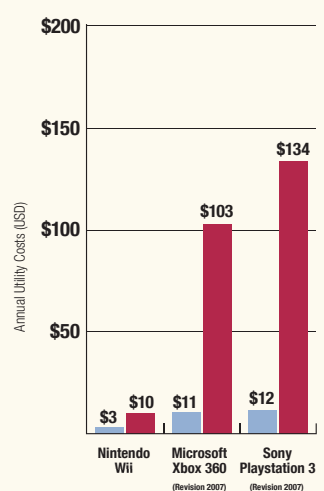
- Don't watch movies on your game system. Watching a Blu-Ray movie on the PlayStation uses five times more power than watching it on a standard Blu-Ray player.

So what's the most energy-efficient video game system?

When comparing older models, the Wii used only 16 watts of energy while in active mode. The Xbox used 119 and the Playstation used 150. Newly released gaming systems score higher in energy efficiency ratings. ■

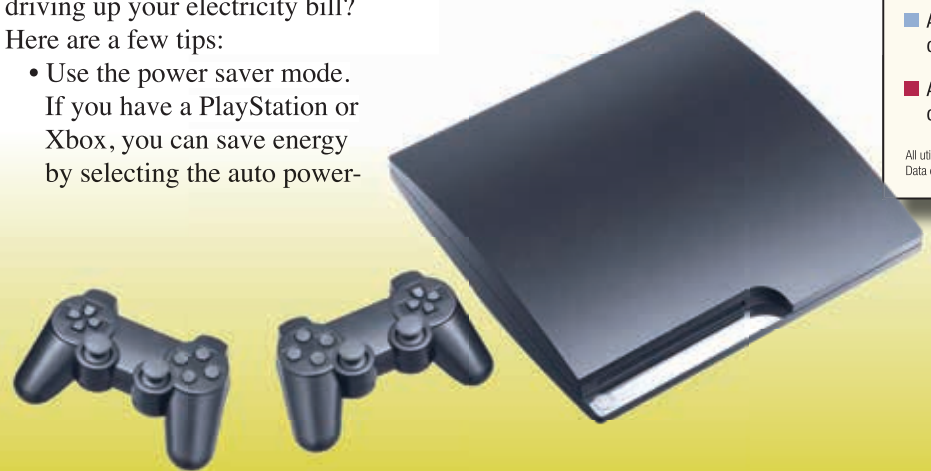
The Price of Play:

Annual energy use and costs for three popular gaming systems



■ Annual energy use (KWH) for users who turn console **off** after use
 ■ Annual energy use (KWH) for users who leave console **on** after use

All utility cost estimates assume typical retail electricity rates of 10 cents per KWH. Data courtesy of NRDC.



Call before you dig!

Planting a tree? Installing a fence? Remember to contact Montana One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but Montana One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact Montana One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.montana811.com or call 800-424-5555 or 811.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law. ■



Heating assistance deadline April 30

If you or anyone you know needs help paying their energy bills this heating season, funds are available. You must act fast! The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will not accept any applications after April 30.

If you reside in Montana, you can reach Energy Share at 800-224-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, you can call Community Action at 701-572-8191.

If you have an emergency and need assistance between May 1 and Sept. 30, you may still be able to get assistance through the Energy Share Program. For more information, call the numbers listed above or call your local cooperative at 406-488-1602. ■



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