



## McCone Electric linemen have faced a long Winter

By C.J. Reid

As most of you know this has been an extremely long and hard winter, never seeming to come to an end. The snow came early and never really left, as did the extreme cold.

Throughout the winter McCone Electric's linemen endured some harsh conditions during the many weather related outages we suffered. The insurmountable amount of snow and bitter cold made travel difficult and outside work conditions nothing but miserable. Just when we thought winter had finally come to an end mother nature dealt us one last blow as if to remind us who is really in charge.

On April 22nd, Good Friday, which is typically a Holiday here, a storm came through the area. The storm brought with it heavy winds, heavy wet snow and ice. Our system was affected by this storm and all of our line crews were called in to go to work.

Our west end crews were called out first at about 7:00 a.m. followed by our Circle crews at about 10:00 a.m. The area



*Deep snow was a hindrance to getting to work areas*

affected was south of Circle to roughly Rock Springs, not a small area.

It was a typically late spring storm causing wrapped wires, burned wires, and a few downed poles. Travel was difficult as already wet soggy pasture became even more water soaked. Off road travel was limited to snow machine, four wheeler, or on

foot. Even travel on county roads was extremely difficult.

We were not the only cooperative affected by this late spring storm. Other cooperatives to our west experienced simi-



*At times off road travel was impossible*

lar outage situations. Fergus Electric in Lewistown lost some transmission poles and as we take a feed out of their it in turn affected us. That is kind of the way storms arrive around here, they start on the west end of our system and eventually make their way on through Circle and beyond.

Thankfully the storm, while an inconvenience to both line crews and our membership, did not do any major damage to our system.

*Cold temperatures made working conditions miserable and difficult*



Our line crews in typical fashion responded quickly and got right to outaging and resolved most of the problems caused by the storm in a timely manner. They understand the inconvenience outages cause our consumers and work diligently to resolve these problems.

Hopefully this is the end of our long and drawn out winter. I for one am ready to have spring truly arrive. It seems most of us in the community have had cabin fever way too long. A nice shot of spring would truly cure that.

McCone Electric Co-op, Inc. Newsletter

# Two local teens to make trip to Washington, D.C.

This year's Youth to Washington, D.C. local essay winner is Rowena Fitzgerald. Rowena attends Garfield County District High School in Jordan. She is the daughter of Shawn and Sue Fitzgerald.

Rowena will travel to Washington, D.C. with a group of Montana teens from all across the state. Her trip is paid for by McCone Electric.

The essay topic was **"You are in charge of the energy efficiency program at your school. Describe ways you would recommend for your school to use electricity more efficiently."** The following is Rowena's essay:

*"Think globally, act locally," applies to energy conservation. My school, Garfield County District High School, is a perfect place to start. Energy conservation applied there will help everyone out by conserving energy and maybe inspire others to make an effort to conserve energy, also. Not all efforts have to be big picture ideas but can be little things that add up to a big difference.*



Rowen Fitzgerald

*A lot of energy is consumed by computers left on at night to update when no one is around. By adding a timer switch that would shut the computers off at a set time and turn them back on in time to update before school, would save a surprising amount of electricity. Using the Energy Calculator on McCone Electric Coop's web site ([www.mcconeelectric.coop](http://www.mcconeelectric.coop)), I estimate that by shutting one computer and monitor off at 5 p.m. and turning it back on at 7 a.m. would save 84 kilowatt-hours or \$4.00 per month.*

*Our school's heating system runs on coal, which is probably the cheapest way, but still requires electricity to circulate the heat. The system could be made more efficient to cut down on electricity use. Our gym is a very big building that is almost always being either heated or cooled. The walls consist of cement blocks which aren't the ideal insulating solution. If insulation, such as foam-board and tin siding were added, it would save loads of electricity every year.*

*Another possible solution would be to lower the high ceilings in the main high school building. We all know that heat rises and having twelve foot ceilings is a major waste. The least expensive way of doing this would be to add false*

*ceilings. Lowering the ceilings just two feet could conserve coal and electricity and lower the school's heat bill a substantial amount.*

*The lights in our school are already fairly efficient being fluorescent. There are even some motion detecting switches in rooms that are not used constantly, like the locker rooms, utility closets, etc. By adding more motion detecting switches so only those lights needed are turned on, would make a substantial difference.*

*The Bonneville Environmental Foundation provides grants for solar energy use in schools. Through the Solar 4R Schools program a photovoltaic system was installed in the Townsend K-12 School. This year alone, the Townsend K-12 School has generated 18,725 kilowatt-hours of electricity. (<http://www.solar4rschools.org/node/1760>) Getting one of these grants could help reduce the amount of electricity the school takes off the grid by a substantial amount.*

*I think it would also be important to launch an energy conservation awareness program in our school, for all grades. I see by the McCone Electric Coop website, there is already educational material developed and available.*

*Lastly and probably most importantly, the best way to start conserving energy for my school would be to request an energy audit from McCone Electric. That way, we would know where the energy is used least efficiently and where we need to start.*

Also traveling to Washington, D.C. is Lynae Sutton, daughter of Arne and Shelly Sutton of Circle. Lynae attends Circle Public High School in Circle.

Lynae is being sponsored by her parents, Arne and Shelly Sutton. Her father is on the McCone Electric board of directors which makes her ineligible to enter the essay contest. Due to the contest rules children of employees and directors are not eligible to enter the essay contest.



Lynae Sutton

The youth group will see many historical places, and they will be tour our nations Capitol to watch congressional members as they work. By the time they return to Montana, they will have a healthy respect for what it takes to keep the United States of America a strong nation.

McCone Electric Coop

# McCone Electric Co-op, Inc.

## Annual Meeting

Friday, June 3, 2011

Circle Country Market Banquet Room

### E-Bill You can view and pay your electric bill on-line

The McCone Electric Cooperative E-Bill system allows you to view and pay your electric bill instantly as long as you have internet access.

You can also view your payment history, usage history and look at graphs of your annual usage patterns. If a paper record of your bill is needed, you can simply print it out.

E-Bill allows you to view your previous electrical billings. You can also enter your monthly meter readings if you read your own meters. If you sign up for E-Bill you will be sent an e-mail every month informing you your bill is ready to be viewed and paid.

#### How do you sign up to use E-Bill?

To sign up for E-Bill you can go to the McCone Electric website ([mcconeelectric.coop](http://mcconeelectric.coop)) and click on the E-Bill icon to go to the New User Sign In Form. You will need to know your account number in order to sign up for E-Bill. After you enter your account number you will need to type in your name. Then enter your e-mail address and a password.

Once you are in our E-Bill site you have the option of selecting paperless billing, or you can still receive a monthly billing statement. Now enjoy the ease of viewing and paying your monthly bill by internet.

#### Fuel cost comparisons for heating

Electric heat	Electric heat 100% efficient 5.2¢ per kwh is equal to:	Geothermal heat pump 5.2¢ per kwh is equal to:
Natural gas / 90% efficient furnace	\$1.37 per ccf	\$0.46per ccf
Propane / 60% efficient furnace	\$0.84 per gal.	\$0.28 per gal.
Propane / 80% efficient furnace	\$1.11 per gal.	\$0.37 per gal.
Propane / 90% efficient furnace	\$1.25 per gal.	\$0.42 per gal.
Fuel oil / 60% efficient furnace	\$1.27 per gal.	\$0.42 per gal.

<http://mcconeelectric.coop>

McCone Electric's website

McCone Electric Co-op

406-485-3430  
 1-800-684-3605  
 406-485-3430  
 1-800-684-3605

## McCone Electric has a variety of Compact Fluorescents on hand, and we have low prices for them

We are stocking 40, 60, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, and 450 watt equivalent compact fluorescents mini-spiral bulbs for sell to our cooperative members. We also have 40 watt equivalent vanity globe bulbs for bathroom fixtures, and outdoor flood lamps.

An easy way to save on your energy bill is to buy compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to replace standard incandescent bulbs.

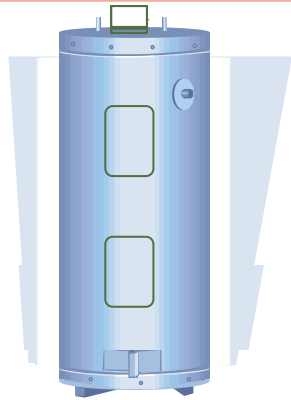
Take advantage of the new lower pricing we are now offering. We have been able to lower prices considerably since we found a cheaper source of supply.



### CFL Incandescent

Watts	Equiv. watts	Price
9	40	\$2.65
13	60	\$2.65
18	75	\$3.00
23	100	\$3.00
36	150	\$6.25
40	200	\$7.50
55	250	\$11.70
105	450	\$16.50
11 globe	40	\$4.25

## 2011 Prices for Water Heaters at McCone Electric



- ◆ Forty-gallon and fifty-two-gallon water heaters:.....\$75.00
  - ◆ Eighty-two-gallon water heaters: .....\$150.00
- (Subject to program rules)

**McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.**  
**Office Hours**  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays  
 Telephone 406-485-3430  
 or toll-free 1-800-684-3605

#### OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Patti Murphy, Pres. .... Circle, MT  
 Arne Sutton, V.P. .... Circle, MT  
 Ruth Himmaland, Sec. .... Brockway, MT  
 Conrad Moline, Treas. .... Brockway, MT  
 Dean McCabe..... Circle, MT  
 Henry Green..... Circle, MT  
 Brent McRae..... Jordan, MT  
 Don Bogar..... Vida, MT  
 Brent Kluth..... Vida, MT

#### OFFICE PERSONNEL

Mike Kays..... General Manager  
 Theresa Haynie..... Office Manager  
 Nichole Sikveland... Consumer Accts. Supv.  
 Jennifer Hogan..... Plant Accountant  
 Sonja Arnston..... Payroll/Accts. Payable  
 Kelsy Solberg..... Billing Clerk  
 Jack Miles..... Member Services Director  
 CJ Reid..... Member Services Director



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>®</sup>  
*The power of human connections*

#### OPERATING REPORT

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.

Year-To-Date

For Period Ending: March 31, 2011

Total Income.....	\$2,328,331
G&T Capital Credits.....	\$0
Cost of purchased Power.....	\$965,372
Total Operating Cost.....	\$1,107,603
Total Margins.....	\$255,356
KWH Purchased.....	25,918,586
KWH Sold.....	21,529,229
Meters Billed.....	5,048
Miles of Line in Service.....	3,813

The Trouble Reporting Number is  
 406-485-3430 or 1-800-684-3605

A dispatcher is available to  
 answer your call at all times

#### LINE PERSONNEL

##### CIRCLE / RICHEY AREA

Larry Schmidt..... Plant Superintendent  
 Jere Loudon..... Line Foreman  
 Dwane Mury..... Sub Foreman  
 Ed Crockett..... Sub Foreman  
 Dennis Murphy..... Sub Foreman  
 Rex Sikveland..... Sub Foreman  
 Bryan Becker..... Lineman  
 Dane Hanson..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Clay Nagel..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Scott Becker..... Meter Technician

##### JORDAN AREA

Jim Gibson..... Sub Foreman  
 Jordan Dasinger..... Lineman  
 Jesse Obergfell..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Adam Stanton..... Apprentice Lineman

##### WINNETT AREA

Ron Heitz..... Sub Foreman  
 Russ Knutson..... Lineman