

# F E R R I G U S

## FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. , Lewistown, MT

## Winnett gas station has found a new life

*Beth Hoverson opens the Brew & Do Salon which includes a boutique*

Story and Photos  
by Judy Byrne

An old gas station has found a new life. Where once motorists fueled up with gas, now guests fuel up with coffee and conversation. Shelves that once held oil and additives now brim with salon supplies. Rather than fixing up vehicles, today's owner Beth Hoverson is pampering people.

Beth has rejuvenated part of the old white building at the junction of highways 200 and 244 near Winnett, and she has found her niche in the Brew & Do Salon. Open Wednesday through Saturday, her boutique has quickly established a presence, not only for the town, but also among travelers.

Perhaps it's the inviting aroma of freshly brewed coffees and lattes that draws them in, but certainly Beth's welcoming smile and friendly service are what keep them coming back.

She greets customers by name as they enter, and more likely than not, she knows what they are seeking. Whether it's a particular flavor of coffee, a haircut, or a turn on the tanning bed, she is attuned to her customers' desires.

Ironically, this young entrepreneur harbored no plans to open a salon when



*Beth stays as long as it takes to cater to her customers. She says, "When you're in the fluff business, you have to accommodate others."*

she moved with her one-year-old son Brooks to Winnett two years ago. "I worked four years in Billings at the Sanctuary Spa and Salon, and I was burned out," she explains.

She took a job managing the city pool and supervising swimming lessons. Once the youngsters learned she was a certified hair stylist, they began requesting haircuts. "I didn't want to be sweeping

up hair in my kitchen," she laughs. "I decided if I was going to do people's hair, I was going to do it right."

With a lot of help from her brother, P.J. Hoverson, and her boyfriend, Destry Harris, she completely refurbished the north side of the old garage.

"This place was nothing but concrete and studs when we started. Everything inside the walls is new, except for

that shelf on the wall. It was in the original gas station, and I wanted to keep it as part of the history of this place."

After much toil and sweat, Beth opened for business on Dec. 15, 2009. She started small, with just one hair styling station and a few retail products. Over the past year her business has grown steadily, and she reports,

"Things are going wonderfully." In addition to the folks from Winnett, her customers come from Jordan, Grass Range, Lewistown, Roundup, even Billings. They find her through word-of-mouth referrals, but she also serves many, many walk-in customers.

"This location has been more than a blessing. The highway brings in a lot of people." She laughs again as she adds, "The UPS man is my best customer." Like many, he comes in for coffee and to visit.

Her day begins at 9, but she stays as long as it takes to cater to her clients, often long past the dinner hour.

Occasionally, she switches out her workdays to accommodate the community.

During the basketball tournaments, for example, she opened the shop at the start of the week, knowing that people would attend the games on Friday and Saturday.

"When you're in the fluff

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# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Scott Sweeney

## Megaloads

The first pair of high-load trucks hauling oil refinery equipment to Billings finished passing through our system on April 4 at 2:30 a.m.

All line crews and supervisors were involved and I want to compliment our crews and staff for a job well done.

Work began about 9:30 p.m. and ended about 7 a.m. for four nights while the loads moved through our service area. Approximately 110 power line crossings were affected.

I also wish to thank our members who experienced power interruptions during the move. Because we were not sure of the exact time nor the duration, the outages were hard to plan for.

There will be one more load passing through our area. By the time you read this, I hope the second move has come and gone. Because weather is a factor, an exact schedule is not possible. However, as with the first move, members affected by power outages will be notified or have been notified.

## Identify account number

*Win a \$31.50 credit*

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number.

*Account 317471*

*Account 387488*

*Account 321130*

You will receive a \$31.50 credit on next month's statement.

## Highwood Generating Station

Construction is progressing well on Phase 1 of the 40-megawatt natural gas-peaking plant. The startup date is planned for August.

The board of trustees and staff continue to analyze the feasibility of proceeding with constructing Phase 2, which is a 120-megawatt natural gas combined-cycle base load generation station.

The combined-cycle gas plant is beneficial because of higher efficiency when converting the energy of natural gas to electricity. Kevin Cavanaugh of Stanley Consultants told me that we can expect efficiency as high as 56 percent with a combined-cycle plant.

Currently costs are being studied and evaluated. The board will make a decision on Phase 2 of the Highwood Station using the best information available.

## Notice of annual meeting

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3 of the bylaws of Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., notice of the 74th annual meeting is hereby given.

The member meeting will take place at the Fergus County Trade Center, Lewistown, Montana, Thursday, June 9, 2011. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon.

The business meeting convenes at 1 p.m. with the order of business as follows: report of members present, reading of notice and proof of publication, election of two trustees, and transaction of other business.



## Scholarship drawing at annual meeting

Fergus Electric will raffle off six \$600 scholarships in a drawing at this year's annual meeting June 9, 2011.

Funding for the scholarships comes from unclaimed capital credits.

Rules for the scholarship drawing are: 1) The applicant or applicant's parent/guardian must be a member of Fergus Electric Cooperative; 2) The applicant must be present at the annual meeting; 3) The applicant must be accompanied by a parent/guardian; 4) The applicant must have at least a "C" grade average; 5) The scholarship may be used for undergraduate college or vo-tech studies or for graduate studies.

No support documentation is required. Winners are determined by "the luck of the draw." Checks will be written to the college or school of the winner's choice.

Please complete the following application and return it to: Fergus Electric Scholarship Drawing, 84423 US Highway 87, Lewistown, MT 59457 by June 3, 2011. For more information call Vangie at 538-3465.

### Fergus Electric Scholarship Application\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

College/Vo-Tech attending/  
will attend \_\_\_\_\_

I maintain at least a "C"  
average \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Application due June 3, 2011

## Brew & Do Salon

*Continued from page 3*

business, you have to accommodate others or you won't last long."

Her success is apparent. Beginning with only four retail products, she has expanded her boutique to include a full line of hair care products from Kenra.

In addition, clients can browse a line of t-shirts, caps, purses, bags, scarves, watches, and jewelry. Tanning supplies, lip balms, body lotions, and nail care supplies are displayed among the belts, sandals, sunglasses, and wallets also available at the Brew & Do Salon.

Beth's sister-in-law, Allison Hoverson, makes more than half the jewelry sold in the shop, and Crystal Matteson of Lewistown creates sun catchers that sparkle in the window.

One item unique in central Montana sits prominently on the coffee counter. It is a cozy for wine bottles and glasses called the Woozie. "You can't take yourself too seriously when you see something like that!"

The Woozie comes in several styles to attract a wide variety of patrons, but the one on the counter has a camouflage design. Apparently, it is intended for the up-scale hunter who chooses wine instead of whiskey or beer.

"This shop offers the only boutique-type items in town, and the retail side is going very well," she says. "There is an advantage to being the only shop of its



*Beth's shop offers an eclectic selection of boutique-like items. She notes, "There is an advantage to being the only shop of its kind in the only town in the county."*

kind in the only town in the county."

For the time being, Beth has about as much as one person can handle. Raising a toddler, running the city pool, coaching high school track and building a new business keep her plenty busy.

Although men and boys drop in for a haircut, most of her clientele are busy moms looking for a trim or tint. Beth plans to continue what she's doing now – giving those ladies a well-deserved break from their workday and making them feel a bit pampered.

"I would love for someone to join me who can do natural nails and pedicures, but for the time being I have to focus on

what I do best."

Beth maintains an active presence on Facebook where customers can view and order her products in the comfort of their own home. She also hopes to install an attention-getting sign outside to entice even more travelers through her door. Other than that, she is thrilled with the turn her life has taken in Winnett.

"I've been very fortunate to find where I fit here, and I'm grateful they've allowed me to become a part of this community," she says. "I couldn't have done it without their help."

## Megaloads pass through service area

*Photo by Vangie McConnell*

Two oversized rigs, carrying immense coke drums, began their journey from Lewiston, Idaho, to the Billings ConocoPhillips refinery in February.

While scheduling crews to accommodate the move, the cooperative prepared for early morning power interruptions. Day travel was not allowed, so taking four nights in April, the loads and entourage passed through Fergus Electric's service territory between midnight and 6 a.m.

Fergus linemen monitored approximately 110 power line crossings along the route which included Harlowton, Lewistown, Hilger, Roy, Grass Range, Roundup and Lavina.

While parked in Lewistown, the photo shows an Emmert security guard standing (bottom left) near one of the drums.



# Meet your board candidates

In accordance with Fergus Electric Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.3, the nominating committees met and selected candidates for the Board of Trustees.

In addition to the procedure set forth above, any five or more members acting together from the district in which a trustee is to be elected may make other nominations by petition not less than 30 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the aforesaid committees are posted. No other method of nominating candidates for the trustee shall be permitted.

The following members from District 2 and District 4 are seeking board positions.

## David Dover – District 2

Incumbent David Dover has been a member of the cooperative for 18 years. He has served on the board for the past nine years and is currently vice president. He completed educational courses to become an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director. David also serves as one of Montana's representatives on the NWPPA Board of Directors headquartered in Vancouver, Wash.



Northwest Public Power Association is an organization of over 150 public utility districts, electric cooperatives, municipalities and crown corporations in the Western U.S. and Canada.

NWPPA is dedicated to serving the interests of its members and the millions of electric customers they serve.

David was born and raised in the Buffalo area and graduated from Hobson High School. He attended Montana State University, earning a degree in business finance. David is involved with various church, community and ag-related organizations. He is also an EMT with the Hobson Ambulance Service.

David says, "Fergus Electric has long held the motto of providing quality, reliable and affordable power to its members while following sound business practices. I believe this motto will continue to serve us well as we move into a future filled with challenges."

David and Michele were married in 1988. They have two sons attending school in Hobson. And two sons who have graduated. The family lives on a ranch south of Buffalo where they raise cattle and sheep.

## Ben Peterson – District 2

Ben Peterson is candidate for the Board of Trustees to represent District 2. Ben was born and raised on the family farm and ranch north of Judith Gap. He graduated from Judith Gap High School and later earned a degree in Animal Science from Montana State University in Bozeman.



He has been involved in production agriculture his entire life and is intimately aware of the unique challenges of energy use in agriculture and the rural setting. Electrical power costs and availability are high on his mind when looking to the future of his business and community.

Ben says, "Electrical cooperatives were created by the people that were not getting served by the utility companies of the time. They were neighbors helping neighbors not worrying about making a profit, but just being good neighbors. That concept still lives today and needs to be part of the consideration when decisions are made by the board. The board after all is still neighbors helping neighbors at the most basic level."

## Mike Vlastelic – District 4

Incumbent Mike Vlastelic has been a member of Fergus Electric for 23 years, has been a trustee for three years and is on the Montana Electric Cooperatives' safety committee.



Mike is an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director.

Mike was born and raised in Grass Range and has made his home there except for four years in the Navy. Mike ranched for many years, but now leases his ranch. He is in his 29th year selling feed for Westfeeds and serves on their board of directors.


Two years ago he purchased the Grass Range Mercantile which is a

grocery/hardware store and along with his wife, Deb, operates the Elk Creek Lodge.


Active in his community, Mike volunteers for the fire department and ambulance service. He served on the school board for six years – three as chairman, worked on the Grass Range history committee and continues to work toward community development.

Mike believes the cooperative has served our communities very well with reasonable rates, excellent service and exceptional employees. He feels honored to serve on Fergus Electric Board of Trustees.

Mike and Deb have a blended family of two daughters, three sons and five grandchildren.



**Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
LEWISTOWN, MT

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:

Dale Rikala .....	406-535-5192
Guy Johnson .....	406-535-5132
Scott Sweeney .....	406-538-7218
Don Criswell (Roundup) .....	406-323-3426
Monte Obert .....	406-425-1288

**FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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Scott Sweeney .....General Manager  
Mike Stanley .....Assistant Manager  
Dale Rikala .....Operations Supervisor  
Sally Horacek.....Office Manager  
Vangie McConnell.....Editor

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

District 1: Steve Balster, Sec./Treas.,  
Lewistown, 538-5142

District 2: David Dover, Vice President,  
Buffalo, 374-2315

District 3: Joe Dirksen, Winifred, 462-5631

District 4: Mike Vlastelic,  
Grass Range, 428-2160

District 5: Terry Frost, Roundup, 323-3415

District 6: Jason Swanz, Judith Gap, 473-2462

District 7: Bob Evans, Jr., President,  
Geyser, 735-4476

*Fergus Features is a national, state and regional award winning newsletter.*