

F E R G U S

FEATURES

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

2026 LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Fergus Electric awards 58 scholarships at Annual Meeting

AT our 2026 Annual Meeting, the Fergus Electric Board of Directors surprised all 58 eligible member-students by awarding each a \$2,000 Luck of the Draw Scholarship. These funds are paid directly to the college, vo-tech or trade school in which the students are enrolled.

It is so heartwarming to read the thank-you notes coming in from our scholarship winners! Their words remind the Board of Directors and our staff exactly why we chose to support so many local students. Spreading the generosity helps our local kids focus on their education.

Here is what a couple of our students had to say:

• One student shared, "Thank you for allowing us all to get a scholar-

ship. You have no idea how much this impacts the young community in central Montana. It's such a blessing to know how involved you are in our rural community. Thank you all so much for helping me with college!!"

• Another wrote, "Thank you for allowing me to pursue further education. Having these scholarships helps alleviate the financial burden of going to college. They allow me to solely focus on my education, as well as my future, so thank you."

We appreciate knowing that we can lift a bit of that financial weight and help students fully focus on their education.

Last year during the Annual Meeting, General Manager Carson Sweeney spoke about the Cooperative

Scholarship program. He explained that members can fill out a Revocable Capital Credit Beneficiary Registration Form. This form lets members choose who will receive their capital credits in the future.

Members also have the option to gift their capital credits to the scholarship program. This gift helps support students whose parents or guardians are members of Fergus Electric Cooperative.

Each student has shared their personal career goals, in their own words. Central Montana is represented by an outstanding, hard-working group of students who have bright futures and wonderful paths ahead of them. We are pleased to help support them and watch them succeed. RM

THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS BY GRADUATING SCHOOL



Allison Elings

BILLINGS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH

Allison Elings: William Jewell College.; Area of Study: Exercise Science; Goals: "I plan on continuing my education after William Jewell to pursue a degree in physical therapy."

therapy grad program. I hope to use my degree in central Montana!"

FERGUS HIGH

Lexya Burnham: Rocky Mountain College; Area of Study: Biology; Goals: "I want to become a dental hygienist and live in Colorado. I want to encourage and promote healthy dental and preventive practices for people's oral hygiene."

Jacey Lyn Chromey: Miles City Community College; Area of Study:

Nursing; Goals: "Finish my nursing degree in two years. Balance work, school, friendships and rodeo."

Regan Comes: Black Hills State University; Area of Study: Biology and psychology (double major); Goals: "I hope to be happy in life and successful in my career. I want to look forward to going to work, but most importantly, I want to make a difference in people's lives!"

Rhett Thomas Comes: MSU – Northern; Area of Study: Welding;

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Lexya Burnham



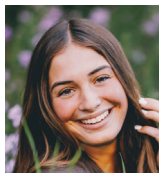
Callie Donaldson

DENTON HIGH

Callie Donaldson: MSU-Bozeman; Area of Study: Health and Human Development; Goals: "I am going into my senior year at MSU and plan to apply to an occupational



Jacey Lyn Chromey



Regan Comes



Rhett Thomas Comes



Madeline Denton



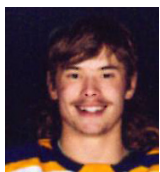
Gabriel Gee



Laredo Hagenbuch



Alison Kolar



Kaelen Krumwiede



June LePage

Continued from previous page

Goals: "My career goals are to become a skilled professional welder. I would like to work at Allied Steel once I get my certification. After that, I would like to take over the family ranch."

Madeline Denton: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Nursing; Goals: "My career goals are to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in the fall of 2027 and begin working in a Level 1 Trauma Center ICU to gain critical care experience. After at least one year in the ICU, I plan to attend nurse anesthesia school and earn my doctorate to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CCRNA)."

Gabriel Gee: Montana State University - Billings; Area of Study: Secondary English Teaching; Goals: "In the current age of A.I., I want to give an education that is wealthy of knowledge. Furthermore, I want to create more appreciation for literature, and the power of telling stories."

Laredo Hagenbuch: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Pre-med /Nursing; Goals: "My career goals are to graduate college with my nursing degree. I want to make sure that all little kids get the attention they deserve and not feel overwhelmed like I did when I was little. I also want to accomplish the feeling of succeeding in life and making differences no matter big or small."

Alison Kolar: University of Montana; Area of Study: Political Science; Goals: "I hope to earn a bachelor's degree in political science and become a diplomat. I plan to study abroad and become proficient in a language or two."

Kaelen Krumwiede: Montana State University - Northern; Area of Study: Business Administration and Automotive Tech; Goals: "I aspire to return to Lewistown to open a financial advising / planning office. As a financial advisor I hope to not only provide financial stability, but to encourage individualized advice and decisions."

June LePage: Montana State University - Bozeman - WWAMI; Area of Study: Medical School; Goals: "I am honored to be earning my doctorate through the University of Washington School of Medicine as a WWAMI student. I intend to return to Montana to practice medicine when I am a physician."

Mitchel LePage: Carroll College; Area of Study: Chemistry; Goals: "I want to graduate from Carroll College and then apply to medical school and become a doctor."

Jaden Martin: University of Providence; Area of Study: Exercise Science Pre-Clinical; Goals: "I intend to pursue a career in physical therapy following undergrad and doctorate school. I hope to provide my services to the people of Central Montana and raise my family here."

Megan Maxwell: North Dakota State University; Area of Study: Nutrition Science; Goals: "I plan on using my degree in nutrition science to give back to my community, by helping improve general wellbeing through nutrition counseling and support. My hope is that I can leave a positive impact on my community that can be passed on to future generations."

Colter Morris: WyoTech; Area of Study: Automotive Technology; Goals: "My goal is to be a technician specializing in performance powertrains. I want to end up owning my own engine shop or mechanic shop."

Presley Quigley: Montana Academy of Salons; Area of Study: Cosmetology; Goals: "I would like to learn how to color and cut hair to give people more confidence. I would also like to own my own salon one day and continue to learn new ways to do hair and nails for others."

Brooklyn Ruckman: University of Montana - Western; Area of Study: Secondary Education - Modern History; Goals: "I am studying secondary education and modern history with a minor in business and computer applications with hopes of becoming a rural Montana high school history teacher. I want to give back to the communities that were so generous to me, and plan to do that by serving as an active educator."

Mylee Ruckman: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Agricultural Communications; Goals: "I hope to travel the world as an agriculture ambassador to promote Montana agriculture and Montana agriculture opportunities. I also hope to encourage younger generations to pursue careers in agriculture and explore the many opportunities it holds."

Dashel Ruff: Montana Tech; Area of Study: Civil Engineering; Goals: "After graduating from Montana Tech I plan on returning to Lewistown and working for Century Companies. I also plan on starting a family and raising children back home."

Wylee Snapp: Montana State University - Northern; Area of Study: Electrical; Goals: "I want to graduate with my electrical degree and then start working. After I work as an electrician I want to come back and work on the ranch."

Allie Uecker: Weber State; Area of Study: Radiology; Goals: "To give back to a community that's given so much to me!"

Anna Welsh: Montana State University - Billings; Area of Study: English Education; Goals: "I plan to get my bachelor's degree in english education with a minor in reading. I will be able to teach middle school and high school english. Eventually, I plan to get my master's in english education so I can teach AP classes."

Logan Welsh: Montana State University - Northern; Area of Study: Welding and Metals Manufacturing; Goals: "I plan to get my



Mitchel LePage



Wylee Snapp



Jaden Martin



Allie Uecker



Megan Maxwell



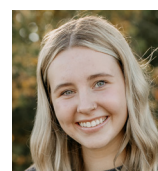
Anna Welsh



Colter Morris



Logan Welsh



Presley Quigley



Sydney Wichman



Brooklyn Ruckman



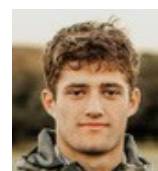
Hailey A. Geary



Mylee Ruckman



Ella Cooney



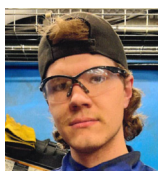
Dashel Ruff



Lauren Deegan



Sawyer Campbell



Cole Carlson



Tim Ridgeway



Peter Britton



Jackson Swanz



James Bergin



Leon Aminkeng



Kate Martin



Thomas James (TJ) Hickey



Adysen Cundiff



Chianne M. Carlson



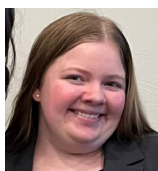
Ben Broyles



Ethan Cox



Lily Vickers



Mazie Davidson



Tyler Icard

welding and metals manufacturing degree and have the skills that I can fall back on. After I graduate, I hope to study paleontology at MSU in Bozeman."

Sydney Wichman: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Nursing; Goals: "After I finish my nursing degree at MSU, I plan to utilize one of the many job options nursing has to offer. Eventually I'll settle down with my family in Montana, and possibly pursue my nurse practitioner degree."

GRASS RANGE

Hailey A. Geary: Montana Academy of Salons; Area of Study: Cosmetology; Goals: "My career goals are to sooner or later start my own salon. I also want to hopefully go back to school for massage."

HARLOWTON HIGH

Ella Cooney: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Agricultural Business and Business Finance; Goals: "I plan to study business and ag finance so I can return to my family's ranch while also working in rural financial management. I want to continue hands-on ranch experience with professional financial training to support Montana's agricultural communities."

HOBSON HIGH

Lauren Deegan: Montana Technological University; Area of Study: Radiology; Goals: "The goals I have for my career are to become an ultrasound technician as well as continuing to be part of the family farm. I hope to be very involved in both aspects and have each be a big part of my life."

Sawyer Campbell: Montana State University - Northern; Area of Study: BS Diesel Technology AAS - Welding; Goals: "To earn my BS - Diesel Technology and AAS - welding degrees. I plan to continue a career in my fields of study."

Tim Ridgeway: Carroll College; Area of Study: Business Management and Marketing; Goals: "Have a flexible job or my own business for personal freedom. Also to gain enough wealth to live comfortably."

Jackson Swanz: Carroll College; Area of Study: Environmental Science; Goals: "To receive my degree in environmental science and put it to use by helping other farmers and ranchers improve their soil and plant health to help the land stay healthy for generations to come."

Leon Aminkeng: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Animal Science-Livestock Industry and Management; Goals: "My career goals are to become a cattle embryologist. Along with that, I also plan on raising show and production Angus cattle with the hopes of holding my own sale in the future."

Thomas James (TJ) Hickey: Montana State

University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Electrical Engineering; Goals: "After graduating from Bozeman I hope to pursue optics with focus on laser technologies. Specifically, I am excited about laser-based power transfer and its potential!!"

HOMESCHOOL

Chianne M. Carlson: Paris Junior College; Area of Study: Jewelry Technology; Goals: "My goals are to repair and design jewelry. Working for a jewelry store/company, I will design, create and repair custom fine jewelry."

Ethan Cox: Inter Mountain Medical Educators - Bozeman; Area of Study: EMT; Goals: "My goal is to get my EMT license and use it as a first responder. I wish to be a fire fighter for the next couple of decades."

Mazie Davidson: New Saint Andrews College; Area of Study: Liberal Arts; Goals: "I hope to become a teacher. I want to get married and have lots of children."

Cole Carlson: Great Falls College MSU; Area of Study: Welding; Goals: "My main goals are to master more advanced welding techniques like TIG and pipe welding and then enter the work force full time."

Peter Britton: Benedictine College; Area of Study: Accounting; Goals: "I will attend Benedictine College starting in the fall to study accounting. After receiving my bachelor's degree in accounting, I will work in an accounting firm. After several years, I intend to pursue a law degree."

MELSTONE

James Bergin: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Ag Business; Goals: I hope to get my ag business degree in about four years. With it, I plan on returning home and taking what I learned to help better operate or improve our own operations.

MOORE

Kate Martin: University of Montana - Western; Area of Study: Biology with Pre-Vet Medicine; Goals: "Move back to central Montana to practice veterinary medicine after grad school. I would also like to gain much experience before vet school with a local vet."

Adysen Cundiff: Great Falls College MSU; Area of Study: Veterinary Technician; Goals: "Completing my degree and continuing my career at Horizon Vet is my main goal. I want to grow with the clinic in my knowledge and skill set while staying in my hometown, which has always been a focus to me."

RAPELJE HIGH

Ben Broyles: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Mechanical



Royce Holzer



McKenzi Milburn



Jacob Swanz



Tyce Smith



Abbie Arntzen



Hannah Ewen



Ethan Carlstrom



Cody Cochran

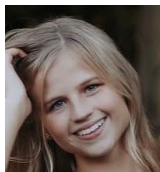
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Isabella Edwards



Laynee Elness



Lexie Goettlich



Kolt Lensing



Joel Warneke



Wyatt Wickens

Continued from previous page

Engineering; Goals: "I plan on graduating from MSU with my engineering degree. With my knowledge I will get a job hopefully at the refinery in Laurel."

ROUNDUP HIGH

Lily Vickers: Carroll College; Area of Study: Anthrozoology and Psychology; Goals: "I aim to train therapy animals and use them to work with children with special needs."

SHEPHERD HIGH

Tyler Icard: Rocky Mountain College; Area of Study: Biology / Pre-med; Goals: "I plan to finish my biology degree at Rocky Mountain College and then apply to medical school. I hope to become an anesthesiologist and return to work in Montana."

STANFORD HIGH

Royce Holzer: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Business Management and Kinesiology; Goals: "I am currently focusing on widening my knowledge on business and kinesiology. I plan to apply business fundamentals with athletic training."

McKenzi Milburn: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Pre Nursing; Goals: "I plan on getting my Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and becoming a traveling nurse."

Jacob Swanz: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Architecture; Goals: "To get a degree in architecture and business finance."

Tyce Smith: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Ag Business / Farm and Ranch Management; Goals: "My future goal is to come back to the family ranch when I am older and done with college. I want to bring new ideas back that will continue the success of the ranch."

WINIFRED HIGH

Abbie Arntzen: University of Montana - Western; Area of Study: Elementary Education; Goals: "My career goals are to one day become an elementary teacher. I hope to stay in Montana and teach in a rural school."

Hannah Ewen: Montana Technological University; Area of Study: Exercise Science; Goals: "I plan to pursue a career in sports medicine. I want

to work with athletes to prevent injuries, improve performance and support recovery."

Ethan Carlstrom: Montana State University - Northern; Area of Study: Pre-Professional SE Gen Science; Goals: "My career goals are to get my degree and teaching certificate. After that I plan to move to Alaska and teach while getting my degree to be a superintendent."

Cody Cochran: University of Montana - Missoula; Area of Study: Music Major - vocal performance; Goals: "I plan to pursue crypto liquidity pools as my main occupation. If an opportunity to sing appears in my life, then I will put my major to good use."

Isabella Edwards: University of Montana - Missoula; Area of Study: Psychology; Goals: "I want to become a counselor or therapist. As of now, I want to either work as a school counselor or a marriage counselor, but I am also interested in individual therapy."

Laynee Elness: Miles Community College; Area of Study: Business; Goals: "Finish my associate degree in business. Upon graduation at MCC I will attend a four-year school and pursue my nursing degree."

Lexie Goettlich: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Early Childhood Education: P-3; Goals: "I hope to become an early childhood educator who creates a safe, welcoming and engaging classroom. My goal is to help children gain confidence, develop positive relationships, and become lifelong learners."

Kolt Lensing: Montana State University - Bozeman; Area of Study: Nursing; Goals: "Some goals I have in mind include becoming an OR nurse. After graduating from Bozeman, I am aiming to get a job in-state; I can't see myself working anywhere else other than Montana."

Joel Warneke: Montana Technological University; Area of Study: Mechanical Engineering; Goals: "I hope to get a job in agricultural research and development. With this I want to help improve equipment for the next generation of farmers."

Wyatt Wickens: Miles Community College; Area of Study: Automotive Tech plus CDL; Goals: "My first goal is to finish college and come back home and continue to work on the ranch. My next goal is to grow my pig business and make it a good source of income. My third goal is to make enough money to live comfortably and still be able to have fun."

IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

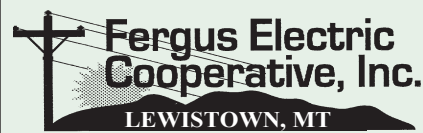
WIN A \$35 CREDIT

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 \$35 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 395931, Account 334894
Account 398449, Account 195417
Account 395387, Account 318138**

No winner to report for last month.

*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:

Tyson Ruff	406-366-9830
Bret Ophus	406-366-7523
Bret Nellermeoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

84423 US Hwy. 87, Lewistown, MT
59457-2058

Tel: 406-538-3465

Office Hours: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M-Th.

Website: www.ferguselectric.coop

E-mail: ferguselectric@ferguselectric.coop

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ferguselectric

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