

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER CO-OPS



Fergus Electric

Neither age nor sex is a factor in racing. Vickie Olson, a registered nurse began racing in 1997.

Lewistown's Doug Peterschick anxiously revs his motor, hand on the wheel, eyes on the tree. The green light rockets him from the gate, and his roaring engine leaves his opponent in a swirling cloud of smoke and exhaust.

That's how Judy Byrne starts her story on a family of racers in the Fergus Features newsletter of the Lewistown-

Story and photo by Judy Byrne based cooperative.

Peterschick has participated in the Lewistown Drag Racing Association (LDRA) since 1997, one of the newer members of the club, and he has inspired two of his children to his passion for racing. "This is a family sport," he explains. "Neither age nor sex is a factor, and it's fun to compete with my kids on an equal playing ground."

Lincoln Electric

Eight high school students are the first to enter the Building Trades program in Eureka, according to Marita Combs, writer and photographer for the Eureka-based co-op.

The students are constructing a house on the industry-standard, mastery level. By spring 2008, it will be listed at market price for a family to make the house a home, the proceeds invested back into the Eureka Student-Built House project to perpetuate the program.

The best part is that the students in this program are groomed to be winners. They're earning college credits towards the Certificate in Building Trades from Flathead Valley Community College. High school juniors entering the program will



Skye Bennett, a 2003 Lincoln High School graduate and representative from Flathead Building Association, with Duke Bigham, instructor of the Building Trades program.

earn the certificate by the time they graduate from Lincoln County High School.

After high school, they have the option of continuing their course work to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in building trades.

McCone Electric

"Wouldn't it be nice if we (adults) could just opt out of all of life's problems," wrote Jack Miles of the Circle-based co-op.

"I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8-year-old again. I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four-star restaurant. I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make ripples with rocks. I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them.

"I want to lie under a big cottonwood tree and play baseball with my friends on a hot summer's day. I want to return to a time when life was simple. When all you knew were colors, multiplication tables and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care. All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset. I want a whole summer of vacation when school is out.

"I want to think the world

is fair. That everyone is honest and good. I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again.

"When I think of grandma and grandpa, I want to think of an awesome trip to their home to be spoiled and swipe candy from their big bowl that's full of it. I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, mean gossip, illness and loss of loved ones. I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind and making angels in the snow. I want to believe that the best love affair is when my dog licks my face and slobbers on my pant leg. So....here's my checkbook and my car keys, my credit card bills and my 401K statements. I am officially resigning from adulthood. And if you want to discuss this further, you'll have to catch me first, because, 'Tag! You're it.'"

Glacier Electric



The Cut Bank co-op is working with four renewable energy developers who have requested interconnection or capacity on our transmission system, writes manager Jasen Bronec in his message to members. Among the developers and their projects:

• Invenergy has proposed a

110 megawatt wind project.

• Naturener has proposed a 100 megawatt wind development located south of Ethridge in Toole County.

• Snow Breeze Wind Development has proposed an 80 megawatt project in the Duck Lake area north of Browning and has requested transmission interconnection with Glacier Electric.

Bronec said one obstacle to projects is a lack of transmission lines to move wind power from the area to major urban markets in Canada and the United States.