Scholarship winners named

At the Feb. 22 board meeting, Goldenwest Electric Cooperative’s trustees had the task of choosing recipients and nominees for the scholarships offered by Goldenwest Electric Cooperative.

There were two applicants for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarships, eight applicants for the Marv Robinson Memorial/Goldenwest scholarship and seven applicants for the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association (MECA) scholarship.

Alexis Begger
Alexis Begger, daughter of Patti and Curtis Begger of Wibaux, Mont., was named the Basin Electric scholarship winner. She will receive $1,000 toward her tuition. She is currently attending Montana State University-Billings with a 3.93 grade point average, with accounting as her major.

“My goal is to graduate college and find a stable job. I would like to move back to eastern Montana to help my parents with their accounting needs on the farm and find a job close to home,” she wrote on her application.

Cole Nelson
Cole Nelson is the son of Brian and Sandy Nelson of Wibaux, Mont., and a senior at Wibaux High School. He is the recipient of the $1,000 Marv Robinson/Goldenwest scholarship. His goal is to attend the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D., to pursue an electrician degree. He plans to return to Wibaux after graduating college to be an electrician in the Wibaux area. In high school, he achieved all-state and all-conference awards in football, has been in honor society since a freshman and on the honor roll all four years.

Trey Dschaak
Trey Dschaak is the son of Janell Dschaak of Wibaux, Mont. He is a senior at Wibaux High School. He is named Goldenwest’s MECA scholarship nominee. His application will be forwarded to Great Falls, where he will compete against four other applicants for a $500 scholarship.

Trey plans to attend Montana State University-Bozeman next year, where he plans to go into the medical field. His mother is a registered nurse and has influenced his love of the medical field, he said. He plans to return to the Wibaux area to pursue his career in medicine.

Successful applicants are eligible to apply again next year, as long as they will be attending college. Luck-of-the-draw scholarships will be awarded at the next annual meeting this summer.
As spring planting nears, Goldenwest Electric Cooperative reminds hardworking farmers and ranchers to stay safe.

Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, Goldenwest Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

You’ve planned every acre
HAVE YOU PLANNED FOR YOUR SAFETY?

Be aware
Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter to make sure you stay far away from power lines when you use tall equipment.

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year. Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact Goldenwest Electric to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call Goldenwest Electric to fix it. Don’t do it yourself.

Follow these other tips:
- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.

- Be aware of increased heights of equipment, especially new equipment with higher antennas.

- Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.

- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.

What if you contact a power line?
Imagine that you are driving a tractor to the field when things come to a screeching halt. You look back to see what’s stopping you, only to discover that you’re tangled in an overhead power line! What do you do?

First, DON’T climb out. If your equipment does contact a power line, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others to stay away and wait until the electric cooperative arrives. Most utility lines are uninsulated, bare wires. Do not let your body become a direct link between the power line and the ground.

- If you must leave the tractor due to immediate danger, such as a fire, jump as far away as you can, making sure that no part of your body touches the tractor and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle with your feet a few inches at a time, making sure to never break contact with the ground or cause separation between your feet.

- Once you’re off the tractor, do not go back until Goldenwest Electric Cooperative disconnects the power line.
Become a Goldenwest Electric Cooperative

TRUSTEE

Copies of your district maps are available at Goldenwest Electric, Wibaux, Mont. Goldenwest was incorporated in 1942, and was first energized June 14, 1948.

If you’re interested in becoming a trustee. Terms and conditions are as follows:

Article IV: Trustees Section I. General Powers.
The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of five trustees which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are required by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Section 2. Election and Tenure of Officers. The Trustees of the Cooperative shall be five (5) in number and selected by secret ballot at the annual meeting of the members. Starting with the 1991 annual meeting, when the two-year term of three trustees expire, two Trustees shall be elected for a three-year term and one Trustee shall be elected for a twoyear term. Thereafter, all Trustees, as the terms expire, shall be elected for a three-year term. and serve until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold position of trust in the Cooperative who: (a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical, or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative; Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provision, the Board of Trustees shall remove such trustee from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter in which one or more of the trustees have interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Section 4. Nomination. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee or nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than eleven members who shall be selected from different sections so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Trustees may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principal of geographic representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for trustees which may include a greater number of candidates than are to be elected. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than fifteen days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and also the nominations made by petition, if any. The chairman shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.
In tribute to the youth

BY SHARON DIETZ

In passing along these scholarship stories, I am profoundly moved by these young people who aspire to bring something back to their communities. They all want to return home to help put back what they had gleaned in their young lives.

It is a testament to that very community that has surrounded their young people with care, concern and backing in their areas of interest.

I am moved by one essay written by Trey Dschaak who wrote: “Wibaux: a blue-collar ranching community with friendly, hard-working people. The small school gave me opportunities to play on a state-championship football team, graduate with friends whom I have known since kindergarten, and learn in classrooms with outstanding student-to-teacher ratios. The people of Wibaux have always been there for me, whether pulling my car out of the snow or cheering at one of my football games. It is reassuring to know I have an entire town backing every step of my life. I have received so much help from this loving community, it is my time to give back.

“I am very interested in many medical specialties such as sports medicine and orthopedic surgery, but I would love to work in pediatrics,” he wrote.

He goes on to say he feels a special connection to helping children lead healthier lives. He plans to practice in Montana, helping children, especially in Wibaux.

“Doing my absolutely best in school, then coming back to my beloved community to help its youth is my way of giving back to my people, the people that raised me as their own,” he wrote.

I just had to share this beautiful tribute that is directed at the people of Wibaux. Our young people really make us proud. This is from a young man who lost his dad tragically at a young age and didn’t go off the rails. He is a testament to the people who held him up and surrounded him with love. Pat yourselves on the back. Good job.

Contact Sharon Dietz at 701-872-4648 or srdietz@midstate.net for ideas on stories from our Goldenwest Cooperative members.