

FALL RIVER FLASHES

AUGUST 2024

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.



CEO Bryan and Janice Case alongside Mason Alles.

“ENERGY PARTNER” SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Congratulations to Mason Alles of Alta, Wyoming, for being awarded the \$1,000 “Energy Partner Scholarship.” Mason is a recent graduate of Teton High School in Driggs and was an Honor Society member with a 3.96 high school GPA. Mason plans to use the scholarship to help him attend Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

This scholarship was created because of the overwhelming number of highly qualified students that submit scholarship applications each year and was awarded in a random drawing at the Co-op’s annual business meeting in June.

The scholarship is funded directly by CEO/General Manager Bryan Case and his wife Janice, who personally contributed the \$1,000.



It’s Wildfire Season: Protect Your Property

The late summer skies in Fall River Electric Cooperative service area are hazy with smoke from wildfires in eastern and central Oregon, central Idaho, and western Montana, including two nearly 200,000-acre fires between Ontario and Baker City, Oregon, with minimal containment as of the end of July.

What is a wildfire? Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in natural areas like forests, national parks, grasslands, and even cropland such as ready to harvest grain fields. These dangerous fires spread quickly and can devastate not only wildlife and natural areas, but also communities. So, what can you do to prepare your property and family in case a wildfire hits?

Create defensible space around your property defined by three different zones. **Zone one** considers the five feet outside your home, including decks, patios, and balconies, as well as fencing that is attached or adjacent to your home. Remove all combustible materials like dead or dry vegetation, leaves, and pine needles. Trim tree branches that hang over your roof.

Zone two is within thirty feet of your home, including any outbuildings like unattached garages or storage sheds. Make sure that area is well maintained and watered during the hot days of summer. Stack wood on bare or graveled areas and prune bushes and trees in that area.

Finally, **zone three**—the area up to one hundred feet away—is where you will want to reduce fuels by thinning and spacing vegetation and limbing up trees to keep flames small and on the ground.



Other preparation for wildfire season includes:

- Make an emergency plan so if you must evacuate, your family members know the route to take and the place to meet.
- Gather supplies for your household, including a first-aid kit, and put them where you can grab and go or inside your vehicle.
- Make copies of important documents like your ID, insurance policies, and even passwords.

For additional sources of information, visit [ready.gov](https://www.fallriverelectric.com/ready.gov).

Fall River Electric Cooperative has implemented its wildfire mitigation plan that involves disabling automatic devices that normally restart the flow of power after a “fault” causes a power outage. During normal conditions, if the fault clears, every meter on our system will experience a “blink.” Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts 2 seconds. You can learn more about blinks by clicking <https://fallriverelectric.com/power-blink> or view this video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-0mVewWVnLs&t=3s>.

During wildfire season, due to the implementation of Fall River Electric’s wildfire mitigation plan, power outages in some areas prone to wildfire may take longer to resolve as we are requiring crews to visually inspect power lines, rather than relying on automatic equipment to restart the flow of power. This effort is intended to reduce the likelihood of wildfires in our service area. We appreciate your patience during wildfire season.



Member Appreciation Luncheon In West Yellowstone

Owner-members of Fall River Electric Co-operative in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas are invited to the Co-op's Member Appreciation luncheon set for Friday, September 13, in West Yellowstone. Members will be able to enjoy free hamburgers and hot dogs along with all the fix'ns from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fall River's offices at 436 Madison Avenue.

The first 150 members who attend will receive a FREE cooler backpack. Now you can pack all the ingredients for a fun, relaxing picnic in this porter-style insulated cooler that is ideal for your adventures.

Members attending the event in West Yellowstone will also receive a FREE energy conservation kit* that includes the following:

- Two 9-watt (60w equivalent) dimmable LED bulbs.

- Two LED night lights each lasting up to 100,000 hours.
- A self-stick door sweep to help seal doors from frigid winter temps.
- A ShowerStart that shuts off cold shower water until its hot and ready to go. It is easy to install without tools!
- And, best of all, a solar charging power bank so you can recharge your phone or mobile device on the go! Ideal for hiking, camping, traveling, and other outdoor activities, it even has a rechargeable battery that stores energy until you need it.

Representatives from Fall River Propane will be on-hand to discuss your winter heating needs. Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate a successful summer season in the West Yellowstone area!

**While supplies last.*

Scholarships Awarded To Fall River Youth

Nearly \$75,000 in scholarships has been awarded by the Cooperative's board to more than thirty youth planning to continue their education beyond high school. The newest recipients were presented with their scholarships at Fall River's annual meeting in June. Recipients include:

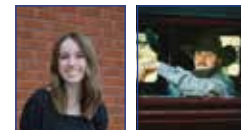
Teton High School, Driggs: Melissa Bagley, Sadie Bagley, Taylor Driggs, Ryker Fullmer, Grace Hogan, Ada Leavitt, Benjamin Millard, Lilikoi Minton, Madeline Pentz, Karly Schroeder, and Gideon Wilson



North Fremont High School, Ashton: Karson Bohn, Aubrie Carter, Teysen Gunnell, Alyssa Hill, Jacob Hill, Jedidiah Hill, Allie Marsden, and Ella Paini



Rigby High School, Rigby: Marcie Golding and Cooper Shaffer



BYU: Gabrielle DeMarco



West Yellowstone H.S., West Yellowstone: Shyla Brown, Emily Jehle, and Hayden Turner



South Fremont High School, St. Anthony: Chandra Kay



Sugar-Salem High School: Spencer Blaser and Ashlon Clark



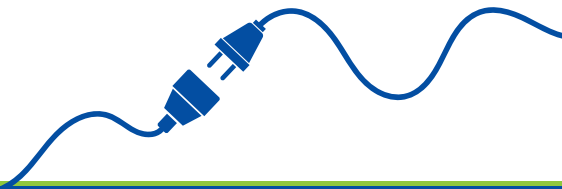
Madison High School, Rexburg: Joshua Christensen



At-Large: Lucy Brener and Sicily Jacobs



Scholarships are funded by unclaimed patronage capital. When Fall River Electric is unable to return patronage capital to members who have earned it, those funds are returned to members by way of our scholarship program. Students earning scholarships must be children of members. You can also choose to donate your future patronage capital to the scholarship fund.





Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
Vice President



Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor
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Anna Lindstedt
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District 7
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Secretary/Treasurer



Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

ACSI Awarded To Fall River Electric



Fall River Electric Cooperative is honored to have earned a 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Fall River Electric, how well the co-op lived up to their expectations, and how well it measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, the survey included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Fall River Electric's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2023 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to Fall River's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Fall River Electric's hard work has been noticed by its owner-members. Fall River Electric is grateful for its owner-members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.

**Award criteria are determined by the ACSI® and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.*

Board Of Directors Officers For 2024-2025

At the Board of Directors regularly scheduled July meeting, board members re-elected Georg Behrens as board president, Brent "Husk" Crowther as vice president, and Jodi Stiehl as secretary/treasurer. According to the Cooperative's bylaws, the president is the principal executive officer and presides at all meetings, the vice president performs all the duties of the president when not available, while the secretary/treasurer is responsible for the minutes and safe-keeping of the corporate books and records, as well as the funds and securities of the Cooperative. Officers are elected annually by the full nine-member board.



Georg Behrens



Brent "Husk" Crowther



Jodi Stiehl

Directors Earn NRECA Awards



Fall River Electric Cooperative's Board of Director members Dede Draper and Jodi Stiehl were recently awarded their Director Gold certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The gold certification is the highest level of director training available and demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duties to the best of their ability.

Director Anna Lindstedt received NRECA's Board Leadership Certificate, which is the second level of achievement in the association's director certification process. The leadership achievement consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific electric industry and governance issues. Directors earning a leadership level must already have completed their Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate first. Congratulations to these directors!



www.fallriverelectric.com

OFFICES TO BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Fall River Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024, to allow our staff to celebrate Labor Day weekend with their families and friends. In case of an unexpected power outage, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. Due to the Co-op's wildfire mitigation plan in effect, power outages may take longer to restore as crews have been instructed to patrol power lines where outages occur to help prevent wildfires in our service area. If you experience an outage on the weekend, holiday, or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ON POWER OUTAGES:

Large power outages or planned outages are reported through Fall River Electric Cooperative's Facebook social media site at <https://www.facebook.com/FallRiverREC>. The Co-op uses Facebook as it remains the most popular social media site with over three billion active users. Its user-base surpasses YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and WhatsApp. If you are a social media user, be sure you follow Fall River Electric on Facebook.



Fall River Cares

One of the seven guiding principles of being a cooperative is helping to build our local communities. Recently, Fall River Electric joined with several other community-minded businesses and individuals to help sponsor the fireworks display during the 4th of July organized by the City of Driggs; Music on Main outdoor concerts in Victor; the Tin Cup Challenge by the Community Foundation of Teton Valley; Music in the Park at West Yellowstone; the Sawtelle Fun Run in Island Park; and habitat improvements at the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. Just another way Fall River works to bring value to our members.

TAKE SAFETY HOME: Safety In Public Spaces

Unfortunately, mass attacks in public places are not uncommon, but you can take some steps to prepare and protect yourself and help others in the event of one.

- **Stay alert.** Always be aware of your surroundings.
- **If you see something, say something to the local authorities.** This includes suspicious packages or people behaving strangely.
- **Have an exit plan** by identifying exits or places to hide.
- **Learn life-saving skills** so you can assist the wounded before help arrives.
- **Remain calm after an attack** and follow law enforcement instructions.

For more info, visit [ready.gov/publicspaces](https://www.ready.gov/publicspaces).



Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your Fall River FLASHES faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

