

FALL RIVER FLASHES

AUGUST 2025

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



OFFICES TO BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, September 1, 2025, in celebration of the Labor Day holiday. As with all holidays, Fall River crews are on stand-by in case of a power outage. Should an outage occur during Labor Day weekend, please call 1.800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



Local Students Earn Fall River Scholarships

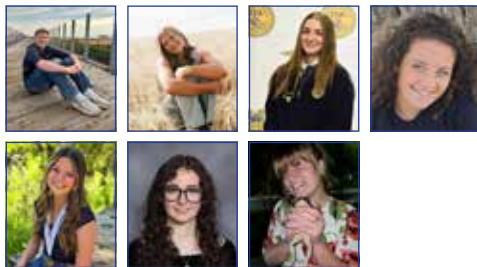
Nearly \$80,000 presented to 37 students this year!

Each year Fall River Electric awards scholarships for higher education to graduating high school students whose parents or guardians are owner-members of the Cooperative. Funding for these scholarships comes from member donations and from unclaimed Patronage Capital. Each scholarship is valued at \$2,400 and is paid to students at the rate of \$600 per year for a traditional four-year program, or \$1,200 per year for a two-year program, while they continue their education.

Congratulations to the 2025 student recipients:

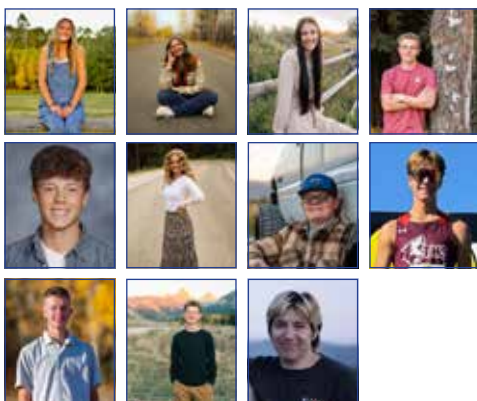
NORTH FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Henry Burke, Ella Cude, Paislie Lancaster, Ashley Orme, Sierra Reynolds, Madyson Rogers, Celest Turpin



TETON HIGH SCHOOL

Ella Bleffert, Adysen Clayton, Brynlee Foley, Clinton Hill, Kaden Hill, Hannah Hoth, Jarrett Jenkins, Zane Lindquist, John McKellar, Garrett Wilson, Alexander Wood



SUGAR-SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Tyler Williams



MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

Ruth Bowden



RIGBY HIGH SCHOOL

Elise Martin



RIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Jace Nelson



WEST YELLOWSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Alma Clark, Emily Martinez, Sophia Watt, Rodrigo Resendiz-Guerrero



Scholarships are also available to students who attend schools outside Fall River Electric's service territory, but their parents or guardians are owner-member of the Co-op. This year's recipients are: **Ian Fillmore of Snake River High School** west of Blackfoot, **Leo Nakamaru of Edmonds Woodway** in Washington, and **Orrin Miller of Malad High School**.



The following students received **Helping Hand Scholarships** that are awarded to assist students that are not traditional high school seniors, but plan to attend college or technical/trade school to further their education: **Izzy Blaisdell** of Rigby, **April Crane** from St. Anthony, and **Anna Pettit** of American Fork High School in Utah.





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All of the students selected for these scholarships are chosen based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, and each applicant's submitted essay.

An additional \$2,500 in scholarships was awarded to the high school sophomore and junior students selected to represent Fall River to attend the ICUA Youth Rally in Boise, Idaho, in July. **Rebekah Bowden** and **Makell Crowther** from Madison HS, **Taylor Neppi** and **Avery Washburn** from South Fremont, and **Trey Behrens** of Teton High School each received \$500 scholarships.

Fall River Adopts Highway For Clean-Up Before Height Of Tourist Season



Staff members included, left to right: Dallin, Nina, Rob, Kathy, Shelly, David, Missi, Diana, John, Chase. (Not pictured: Tim who was called out on a prior appointment.)

In June, staff members of Fall River Electric Cooperative and Fall River Propane conducted roadside cleanup on a section of U.S. Highway 20 in Island Park that the Co-op has adopted.

It took the crew of volunteers about three hours to clean the two-mile stretch of highway located near Ponds Lodge.

Harvest Safety Tips To Prevent Accidents

When it comes to fall harvest, there is a lot to be done in a short amount of time. Top that off with shorter days and changing weather, and you get an increased sense of urgency among farmers, which can lead to injury and even death.

Use these harvest safety tips to prepare accordingly for the season and keep friends and family safe on the farm:

- **To prevent your tractor and other important farm equipment from breaking down**, make a list of what needs to be done to maintain them. Then, assign workers and family members to complete those tasks.
- **Train anyone who is about to use any of the equipment** and be sure to "look up" when moving equipment to avoid coming in contact with over-



head power lines.

- **Practice grain bin safety** to prevent accidents.
- **Do everything you can to prevent machinery entanglements**, including guarding or shielding all moving parts on machinery and keep bystanders and children away.
- **If you feel tired or are fatigued, STOP!** That is when shortcuts can increase injury and accidents.

Let's get those grain crops, hay, and potatoes harvested safely this season.

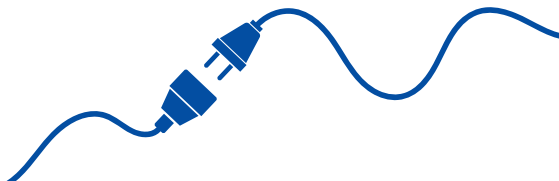


Pictured left to right: Board President Georg Behrens, Travis Markegard, and CEO Bryan Case.

Markegard Earns Certification

Congratulations to Fall River Electric Cooperative board member Travis Markegard for earning his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate!

The CCD is a set of five courses focused on basic governance knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors that prepares them to fulfill their fiduciary duties as elected officials of the Co-op.



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
Board President



Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia



Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

Member Questions Answered

The following questions were submitted by owner-members of Fall River Electric Cooperative in conjunction with the Co-op's June 2025 annual business meeting.

Q: Are you considering battery or other storage means to provide power when other sources are not available?



A: The Co-op is investigating battery storage options that would allow us to "black start" our hydro facilities in the event of a system-wide power failure. In 2023, Fall River Electric and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) partnered to successfully conduct a pilot "black start" project to simulate starting our Felt hydro facility using a battery to provide power to Felt's generators. This project simulated generating power and balancing loads in a microgrid situation. Hydro generation needs electricity to power the generators to then be able to produce power for the grid and a utility scale battery was used in this simulation to provide the initial power to start the Felt generators. The economics of a utility-scale battery make it difficult to justify the cost, however, Fall River Electric has applied for and was initially awarded a federal grant for up to 8MWs of batteries to re-create a microgrid. We are awaiting final confirmation of the grant before proceeding with a battery project.

Q: Why isn't the peak power charge linked to time-of-day?

A: This question is likely about having our demand charge linked to having a time-of-day option like some investor-owned utilities provide. Time-of-day is not a viable option for Fall River Electric members at the present time because the cost of power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is already so low. BPA rates are based primarily on hydropower generation and Fall River Electric operates as a nonprofit utility. Our Cost-of-Service Analysis (conducted by a third party) has evaluated a time-of-day rate provides only small differences in costs between peak and off-peak power so it is not feasible at the present time. The Cost-of-Service Analysis is designed to ensure rates for all classes of service are fair and equitable. That analysis helps the board determine our rates to members in all classifications: residential, commercial, and irrigation.

Q: Why when we pay our bill does the return address say it's going out of state (Idaho)? Why not keep our bill paying in Idaho and keep Idaho people employed?

A: Fall River Electric uses an outside payment processing service that handles payments for dozens of cooperatives, making it much more efficient. Using this resource lets our staff focus on more productive and critical services for our members.

Q: Make your good prizes like backpacks for everyone, not just kids.

A: Every member that attends our annual meeting receives a gift. This year members received a FREE 12-by-16-inch tote AND a 25-foot indoor/outdoor extension cord, PLUS members that visited our Energy Conservation booth were given a FREE conservation kit with EIGHT individual items. The backpacks were specifically offered to attract younger members with school-age children to attend our annual event.



Pictured with Shaffer (center), left to right: Operations Manager Wakefield, Foreman Atchley, Shaffer, Foreman Mackert, and CEO Bryan Case.



Pictured with Arnold, left to right: Wakefield, Atchley, Arnold, and Case.



Arnold & Shaffer Earn Journeyman Certifications

Fall River Electric Cooperative linemen Brayden Shaffer and Jace Arnold have completed their apprenticeships and have earned their Journeyman Lineman certifications. Apprenticeships require up to four years of on-the-job training and classroom instruction, as well as obtaining the necessary licenses and certifications to safely and effectively work with electrical power systems.

Fall River Co-Op Assists With Emergency Communications

Staff from Fall River Electric Cooperative's Island Park crew assisted Jeff Keay and other HAM operators in Island Park with the installation of a new antenna to improve HAM communications in the Island Park area.

The main point of HAM radio is to provide a non-commercial, two-way communication platform for licensed individuals to engage in radio technology and provide emergency communication when other systems fail. It is a hobby, a service, and a way to connect with others globally. In times of crisis or natural disasters, HAM radio can be a vital lifeline when traditional communication systems like cell phones and internet are down. It can be used to coordinate emergency services, relay information, and provide support to affected communities.



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