

MARCH 2018

MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WILLISTON
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STANLEY
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NEW TOWN
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COMMITMENT
TO COMMUNITY

SPIRIT NIGHT ENDS IN SLIME

Students from Lewis and Clark show who they're going to call: "Ghostbusters."

Rike-Fee gets slimed with the help of a student, Lyson and Josh Heredia, MVEC's operations supervisor.



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

SPIRIT NIGHT ENDS IN SLIME



Lewis and Clark students and Lady Tetons show they aren't afraid of ghosts.

The slime oozed Jan. 25 at this year's Teton Elementary Spirit Night in Williston. Each year, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) works with a local elementary school to support the Williston State College men's and women's basketball teams. This year's theme was the 1990s. Students and the community voted for the candidate they would like to see slimed. Representing Lewis and Clark Elementary were music teacher Renae Rike-Fee, physical education teacher Tammy Lyson and reading strategist Lacey Hendrickson. Representing MWEC was General Manager Dale Haugen.

To cast a vote, each voter simply pitched cash or change into the container of the candidate they wanted to "win." Whichever candidate raised the most money got slimed. Voting lasted the entire week before the event and continued

during the basketball games with "winners" being slimed during each of the halftimes.

Students, with the help of Lyson, started each halftime show with a choreographed dance to Ray Parker Jr.'s "Ghostbusters." The song was chosen as "Ghostbusters" was a hit movie in the 1990s and, of course, included slime. The Lady Tetons also joined the students during the men's halftime to show their support.

For the women's Teton halftime, Rike-Fee and Lyson received the most money. To prepare, they came out in ponchos, goggles and shower caps. One lucky student was chosen to help pour the slime. With more than 100 students representing the school, you could hear the cheers and giggles as they watched the slime splatter all over their teachers.

During the men's Teton halftime, Hendrickson raised the most and was slimed. Some students campaigned to



Haugen, Lyson and Hendrickson pose for a photo following the second halftime sliming.

make sure that this time no ponchos or goggles were worn. Lyson also got a second dose of slime without any protective gear to support the students' request and Haugen stated he would donate \$500 if no gear was worn.

Each student who attended the event walked away with a shirt representing the event as well as the fond memories of watching their teachers being slimed. In total, more than \$1,000 was raised for Lewis and Clark Elementary.

MWEC would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success and cannot thank the community enough for supporting our commitment to community. ■



Lyson and Rike-Fee pose following the first slime of the evening.



Hendrickson was not overly fond of the slime, but the student sliming her was having fun.

Clint Hill, Lisa McCubbin to speak at MVEC annual meeting

Clint Hill will forever be remembered as the courageous Secret Service agent who leapt onto the back of the presidential limousine in the midst of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, on Nov. 22, 1963. His primary responsibility was the protection of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, and for his actions that day, Hill received the nation's highest civilian award for bravery.

Now, looking back 50 years, Clint Hill tells his story for the first time – how a Secret Service agent who started life in a North Dakota orphanage became the most trusted man in the life of the most captivating First Lady of our time. With tender, often humorous anecdotes about life with the Kennedy family during those years of Camelot, as well as his riveting moment-by-moment account of what really happened that day in Dallas, Hill's incredible story is one of courage, integrity, and resilience.

Hill rose through the ranks of the Secret Service to become the assistant director, responsible for all protective forces, having served five administrations – Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford. But even though the world viewed him as a hero, he lived with overwhelming feelings of guilt and responsibility for being unable to save President Kennedy, and suffered from what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder. He spiraled into a deep depression, and at the age of 43, no longer physically or mentally capable to serve as an agent, he retired from the job he loved. After languishing for decades in what he calls his “emotional prison,” secluded from friends and family,

dependent on cigarettes and alcohol, it wasn't until he faced the demons that continued to haunt him that he finally came to the conclusion that he had done all he could that day.

He remains in contact with the current U.S. Secret Service and is actively involved in training activities at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. In April 2012, Hill collaborated with journalist, Lisa McCubbin, to write “Mrs. Kennedy and Me.” a memoir of the four years he spent with Jacqueline Kennedy. Published in April 2012, the book immediately became a No. 1 *New York Times* best seller. Clint and Lisa's most recent book, “Five Days in November,” the riveting moment-by-moment account of the days surrounding the assassination, alongside 170 remarkable photographs, was released in

November 2013.

Clint Hill credits Lisa McCubbin with helping him “find a reason to live, not just exist.”

McCubbin is an award-winning journalist who has been a television news anchor and reporter for NBC, ABC and CBS; hosted her own talk radio show; and spent more than five years in the Middle East as a freelance writer.

McCubbin met Clint Hill while writing the *New York Times* best seller, “The Kennedy Detail: JFK's Secret Service Agents Break Their Silence” (with Gerald Blaine) in 2009. She convinced Hill that the information and memories he had buried for nearly 50 years were of historic value, and should be documented. McCubbin collaborated closely with Hill in the writing of “Mrs. Kennedy and Me.” Their newest

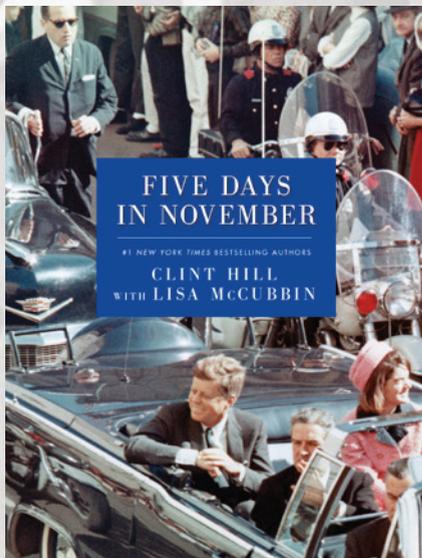




Hill



McCubbin



book, “Five Presidents,” has been named by ABC News as one of the “16 must-read books for summer.”

The dynamic chemistry between McCubbin and Hill is evident in their unique joint presentation in which history comes to life as McCubbin draws out the poignant and painful memories from Hill, in an unforgettable hour filled with humor and drama, with the backdrop of rarely seen photos and videos. Audiences leave with an insight into the workings of the Secret Service, answers to the conspiracy theories, and inspired by the powerful message of an unlikely hero. ■



Spring cleaning delivers safe, reliable power

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter. I take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work. But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC) maintains our rights of way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they

are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, MVEC, strives to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone.

When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too—another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost: this is why we believe in ROW “spring cleaning.” If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At MVEC, we aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook. ■

The power behind your power

BY ANNE PRINCE

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, MWEC lineworkers are responsible for keeping many miles of lines across Williams and Mountrail counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is during the month of April, so if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions. ■

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



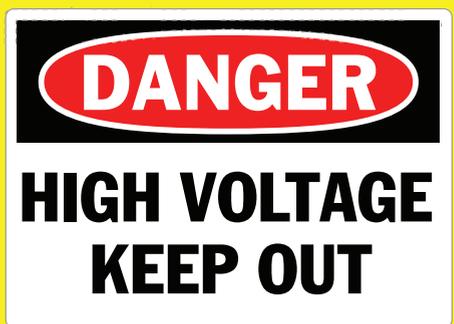


**LOOK UP,
LOOK AROUND
AND
BE SAFE!**

Overhead power lines, substations and other equipment are necessary to deliver electricity, but that same equipment can also be deadly if not treated with respect. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative urges you to watch for electrical equipment!

HEED THE WARNINGS

- Obey signs that say “danger” and “keep out” around large electrical equipment, like substations. These signs aren’t warnings; they’re commands to keep you safe.
- Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.
- Padmount transformers, better known as “big green boxes,” may be scattered through your neighborhood. Cooperative employees need room to work safely on transformers. Keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from doors and 4 feet away from the other sides. Also, don’t allow children to play on or near the structures.



BE AWARE OF POWER LINES

- 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 your electric cooperative 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. Pole 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 the cooperative to fix it. Don’t do it yourself.

DON'T BE SILENT ABOUT SAFETY!

Safety is everyone’s job!

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative’s system covers a large territory, with thousands of utility poles, hundreds of miles of power line and numerous transformers and other equipment.

As a cooperative member, you can provide a valuable service to Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative by observing and reporting hazardous conditions which may threaten electric service reliability or endanger

public safety.

Members who notice anything potentially unsafe involving Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative’s power lines are asked to contact the cooperative.

Unofficial minutes
of regular board meeting
Jan. 31, 2018

Directors present: Sorenson, Grant, Hartsoch, Johnson, Lynne, Jorgenson, Lalim, Ludwig and Lahtinen.

Directors absent: None.

Others present: Manager Haugen, in-house counsel Johnson Ellis, attorney Foust and staff members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at TrainND in Williston. Minutes of the Dec. 27, 2017, regular board meeting were approved as presented. The agenda was approved as presented.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

President Sorenson discussed with the board the Jan. 4 tour of SPP headquarters in Little Rock, Ark. The directors who were able to attend the tour had positive comments and feedback about their experience at SPP.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: In-house counsel Johnson Ellis and attorney Foust updated the board on all outstanding title requirements for substations. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) will continue to clear these title issues expeditiously.

In-house counsel Johnson Ellis informed the board of a letter.

In-house counsel Johnson Ellis discussed the process to update the

MWEC franchise report. She also explained the update is a proactive measure at this time.

The airport agreement has been approved subject to city of Williston’s attorney approval.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REPORT: Jay Lux presented the December financial report. The total margins for the year to date is \$30,660,667. OTIER is 2.31; MDSC is 2.21; cooperative equity is 24.03 percent and SPP equity is 35.04 percent.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/WORKORDER CLOSEOUTS:

The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work order:

Closeout 688.....	\$251,606.28
Closeout 689.....	\$607,966.11
Closeout 690.....	(\$15,274.76)
Closeout 691.....	(\$201,333.18)
Closeout 693.....	\$6,445,639.33
Closeout 695.....	\$410,750.81
TOTAL.....	\$7,499,354.59

CAPITAL CREDIT

RETIREMENTS: The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts for January 2018:

Lila Wheeler estate	
Dale Raulston estate	
Mildred Kok estate	
Alfreda Good Iron estate	

BAD DEBTS: The board approved the transfer of \$14,727.26 from accounts receivable to bad debts.

Retaining capital credit retirements, using small claims courts, and other methods will be used to try to collect these sums.

MANAGER CREDIT CARD: The board reviewed Manager Haugen’s credit card charges. This review was done as a matter of the board’s regular financial oversight for the cooperative.

FINANCIAL FORECAST: Jodi Collings and Jay Lux reviewed the financial forecast for 2018 with the board. The financial forecast was approved as presented. One director abstained from voting due to being absent for the Cooperative Finance Corporation presentation at the November 2017 board meeting.

REVENUE DEFERRAL: The board discussed revenue deferral for the year 2018. The board approved a deferral. A resolution was proposed and the board approved a motion to adopt a few resolutions.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and the board participated in a strategic planning workshop. ■

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Robert Grant..... Vice-Chairperson
Cheryl Hartsoch.....Treasurer
Blaine Jorgenson.....Secretary
Larry Johnson..... Director
Aaron Lynne..... Director
Garrett Lalim..... Director
Luke Lahtinen..... Director
Dick Ludwig..... Director
Neff, Eiken
& Neff, PC.....Project Attorney
Dale Haugen.....General Manager

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