

# PRECorp News

MARCH 2019



## Local disabled veterans can benefit from 'No Barriers' program

Northeast Wyoming, just like the rest of rural America, is home to many men and women who have served in our armed forces. Some of them are living with a disability.

As part of Powder River Energy's strategic Purpose of improving the lives of those we serve, the Powder River Energy Foundation is endorsing an opportunity for free support of local veterans. One of PRECorp's capital financing insti-

tutions, CoBank, is affiliated with No Barriers USA. With this partnership, CoBank sponsors up to 50 rural veterans with disabilities to experience the No Barriers Warriors program.

Tina Fish of Crook County was a 2018 participant, the only one from Wyoming. Fish's 22 years of Army service has

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MIKE EASLEY,  
CEO

In last month's article I suggested that you give the PRECorp Vision Story video a look on YouTube. If you have not done so, I encourage you to do so as I will be referring to that 3-minute video as part of this article. Just search for "Powder River Energy vision" on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

PRECorp's purpose is to positively influence and improve lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability. Our focus on this could not be more evident than in the PRECorp Moonshot.

A Moonshot is an audacious and perhaps seemingly impossible goal. It is meant to inspire and create positive transformational change. Our Moonshot is to drive down costs so that the first megawatt of energy usage is at our near zero by 2050.

This is no small task! It would have been much easier to forgo a moonshot and be satisfied with a more traditional goal such as keeping the cost of power in line with inflation, or reducing costs by some set percentage. Goals like that are pretty much "business as usual" and don't really drive transformational change.

The business as usual approach is not going to position us to be successful in the increasingly fast paced and ever-changing world around us. We made our mark on rural Wyoming 74 years ago when we began the process to electrify northeast Wyoming and our legacy of positively influencing and improving lives began.



**MOONSHOT:  
Drive down  
costs so that the  
first megawatt hour of  
energy usage is at or  
near zero by 2050.**

In 1945 the idea of a "Moonshot" was not even conceived; that came with President John F Kennedy's declaration on September 12, 1962, to put a man on the moon.

However, I am confident that our founders would have considered delivering 300 megawatts of power over 11,300 miles of line across a 15,660 square mile area serving 26,700 meters of power an audacious and impossible goal. It was a huge Moonshot, and we did it.

Today's moonshot goal is no different in aspiration than that of our original founders. Imagine what things would look like if a major part of your monthly electric bill was on a declining trajectory. The costs to maintain and operate the powerlines and substations will still be there, but we are focusing on how to drive the costs down of the commodity portion of your monthly bill, and while we do this, we are also focusing on driving down costs in all areas of our business without sacrificing the safety and quality of service. This won't be easy, but that is even more reason to try.

In 2019 we are focusing on six strategic initiatives to help lay the foundation for our Moonshot journey. These initiatives impact culture, innovation, efficiency, rate design, technology, and education. The PRECorp team is excited and looking forward to working on these initiatives and beginning our journey to deliver amazing results, exceptional service, and lower costs to you, our consumer-members.

I look forward to next month and the opportunity to share more news about our strategic initiatives and how we are working to serve you.

*Mike*



# Lyle Brice saying farewell

PRECorp Manager of Line Operations Lyle Brice will say farewell to a 28-year career at the cooperative on March 31.

He started out in 1991 as a line superintendent for Sheridan-Johnson REA (which later merged into PRECorp). During his years serving members in the System Operations area of the cooperative, Lyle said he has liked the work and the people he works with. One of the more interesting times was the CBM boom and bust cycle. "I have never gone through anything like that before. You turn on the switch one year and build substations, transmission, distribution lines, and new services like crazy. Then, a few years later, just turn off the switch," Brice remembers.

Lyle and his wife Trudy have two grown children and four grandchildren. In re-

tirement he plans to finish riding his motorcycle in all 50 states, Canada, and Mexico. He also aspires to attend and participate in at least one trap shooting competition in all 50 states.



When he looks back on his career with the electric cooperative, Lyle says it can be a great job and career. "If you love what you do, it does not seem like a job. If you don't love what you do, find something to do that makes you want to come to work," he said.

Thank you, Lyle, for your service to the PRECorp membership, and we wish you many happy retirement adventures.

## Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the offices in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2019 are as follows:

- March 18-19 - Sheridan**
- April 16 - Sundance**
- May 21 - Gillette**
- June 17-18 - Sheridan**
- July 16 - Sundance**
- August 20 - Gillette**
- September 16-17 - Sheridan**
- October 15 - Sundance**
- November 19 - Gillette**
- December 16-17- Sheridan**

Other events to remember:

- **Friday, March 29:** Application deadline for *PRECorp Scholarship* and *Swanda Scholarship*. Swanda Scholarship applicants must be Crook County high school seniors entering ag-related studies in post-secondary schools.
- **Saturday, April 27:** PRECorp Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, 5 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. See Page 5 for complete details.
- **Saturday, June 1:** Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K walk/run, 7 a.m. at the ranch north of Wright. Fundraiser for the PRECorp Foundation. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.
- **Saturday, August 24:** 74th PRECorp Annual Meeting, Buffalo High School.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



### Seasonal Accounts billing update

We heard the voices of many Seasonal Account members after the additional billing in January. In our November PRECorp News, we provided information about a projected Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) decrease in 2019. That decrease became effective on January 1, 2019. What we failed to mention was that, as a result of that change in the COPA charge, Seasonal Accounts were billed again in January for November and December 2018, to close out 2018 with the correct charges. We apologize for any inconvenience that this extra bill may have caused.

# In April, 'Thank a Lineman' like Dooley

By Tim Velder, PRECorp  
Marketing Communication Specialist

Despite using the latest in safety gear and equipment, PRECorp's District Foreman in Wright, Justin Dooley and his wife of two years Heidi, are fully aware that he has one of the most dangerous jobs in America working as an electric lineman.

**As we approach Lineman Appreciation Day on April 8, we ask that PRECorp members pause to say 'Thank you' to the power behind the power.**

When Heidi met Justin, she admits that she was unaware of the importance of the role that linemen play in everyone's daily lives and how incredibly hard they work. "Every time you turn on your lights or heat your home a lineman is one of the people you have to thank for that," Heidi said. "A lineman will be out there day or night to make sure we are able to continue to do these things. We all should remember and be thankful that when this happens there is a lineman out there - rain, shine, or snow - working tirelessly to do whatever it takes to get the power back on for us."

Justin and his crew from Wright responded to at least a dozen outages in the first six weeks of 2019 in sub-zero temperatures and wind. "We always have extra clothes, food, and water, but when it comes down to it, you have to do what you have to do to get the power back on," he said. "There are times when you have to just get in the truck to warm up for 10 minutes, or trade with someone else to work on a pole."

But, Justin said, working safely is the number one thought on their minds. "The biggest concern I always have



Courtesy photo

Justin, Heidi, and Harper Rae Dooley.



PRECorp file photo

Justin Dooley with some of his gear.

is making sure everyone gets home with all their fingers and toes. We still have one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.," he said. "I had a very close friend and mentor tell me once: 'There are old linemen and there are bold linemen, but there are no old bold linemen.' You can never put a price on safety, and I will never ask someone to do what I wouldn't."

Heidi and Justin welcomed the bless-

ing of their beautiful baby daughter Harper Rae in January, adding a third member to the family. But, Heidi was already used to some sleepless nights thinking about her husband responding to outage calls.

"There are so many reasons for these [outage] calls including vehicle accidents, or the weather, and I never know what he might encounter. My thoughts are different when he gets called out on a warm summer afternoon, versus 2:30 in the morning during a February snowstorm. A lot of sleep is lost when I know my husband is out working in a blizzard in the middle of the night," she said. Many times, I find myself staying awake until I at least know he is on his way home. Whatever the reason, I can't help but worry, and I always pray for the safety of him and anyone else involved."

During April, PRECorp members are welcome to go to our Facebook page and let our linemen know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

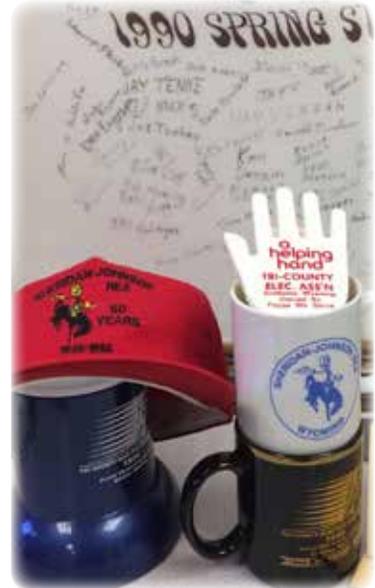
# We want to hear from you.

How long have you been a member of PRECorp?

Do you have memories of Tri-County Electric or Sheridan-Johnson REA?

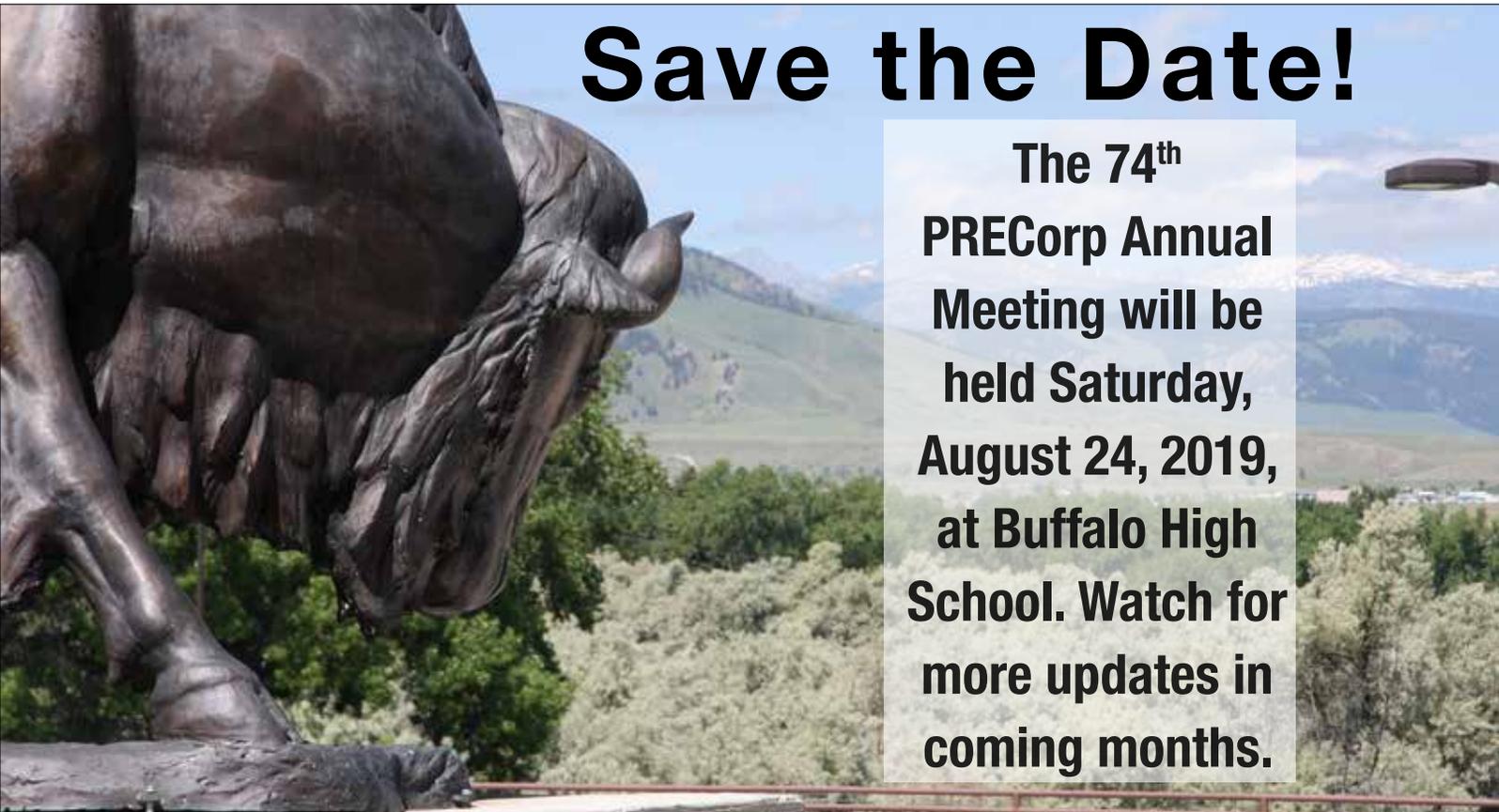
Still have stories and photos about power lines to your farm, home, or ranch?

Any logoed items in your possession that remind you of the old days as a member of your electric cooperative? Please send information or photos to [communications@precorp.coop](mailto:communications@precorp.coop), or drop a note in the mail to: *PRECorp 75th Anniversary, PO Box 930, Sundance, WY, 82729.*



## Save the Date!

**The 74<sup>th</sup>  
PRECorp Annual  
Meeting will be  
held Saturday,  
August 24, 2019,  
at Buffalo High  
School. Watch for  
more updates in  
coming months.**



# No Barriers...

from page 1.

taken her to active duty in Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. Her jobs ranged from heavy equipment operation, to Patriot Missile operator/tech, working as a 1SG.

“As a veteran there are things the civilian population does not ‘get,’” Fish explains. “We tend to bottle up those things. While at the No Barriers Warriors Basecamp, we had an opportunity to share these things in a confidential environment. That was therapeutic.”

Week-long expeditions take veterans to a challenging environment such as the Colorado Rocky Mountains or other public lands. Through successfully completing demanding activities like rafting, rock climbing and hiking, participants become better-equipped to overcome the obstacles they face in their daily lives. By sharing the experience with other veterans with disabilities, they also build a network of support that can last a lifetime.

Fish said the veterans in her group represented many decades of experience all the way back to the Vietnam era. “If you are physically able, I strongly encourage you to participate. We had an Air Force Veteran who lost his leg in a roadside bomb participate,” Fish added. “The purpose of the program is to encourage you to realize what’s inside of you is stronger than what’s in front of you. Meeting and working with a good cross section of individuals with many different disabilities was inspiring.”

CoBank’s sponsorship covers all associated costs for each veteran participant.



Courtesy photos

## Get involved:

Now is the time to nominate a local veteran.

Combat-wounded or training-injured veterans (from any branch of service) with a VA disability rating are eligible for the program.

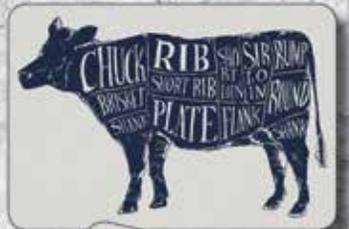
Email nominations to Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner at [jeffb@precorp.coop](mailto:jeffb@precorp.coop).

The nomination forms will be sent out for consideration; April 15 is the filing deadline.

For more information go to: <https://cobank.com/citizenship/no-barriers>

Sign up for  
**Operation RoundUp®**  
 and win a 25-pound bundle  
 of Beef and Pork. (Valued at \$100)

Powder River Energy is offering Operation RoundUp® members and new enrollees a chance at a free bundle of locally-raised 4-H beef and pork, just because you are a part of the monthly contribution network to the Powder River Energy Foundation. If you are currently enrolled in Operation RoundUp®, or you sign up by 5 p.m. Friday, March 29, you will be entered in the drawing on Monday, April 1. If you are not a member of Operation RoundUp®, **SIGN UP NOW** by checking the box on your bill, or by calling PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# 2019 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet



**SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - 5 P.M.  
GILLETTE CAM-PLEX ENERGY HALL**

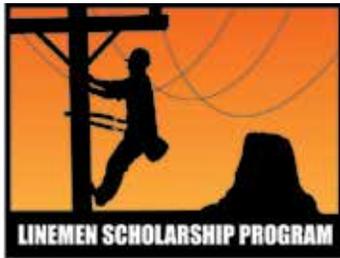
**5 p.m. - Social hour, no-host bar**

**6 p.m. - Prime Rib Dinner**

**Auction - Following dinner, there will be raffles and auction opportunities for many guns and other prizes.**

**EVENT TICKETS:  
\$50 per person  
Call Bruce Olson at  
307-680-4747  
or Alyssa Himle at  
307-257-9693**

**Buy a banquet ticket and get a chance to win a commemorative rifle!**



## SPECIAL DRAWING!

**Special limited-entry drawing for a Street Legal  
2019 Polaris Ranger 900 Side-By-Side.**

**\$100 per ticket with only 250 tickets sold!**

**For tickets call Bruce  
at 307-680-4747  
or Alyssa at  
307-257-9693.**



**Street Legal!**

**Reliable and smooth,  
yet powerful enough  
to get the job done.  
From the fun and  
adventure  
enthusiasts at Peak  
Powersports of  
Sheridan.**

Drawing will take place April 27, 2019, if 150 tickets are sold. The drawing will be held later once 150 tickets are sold. Need not be present to win.



### Why donate?

Help us maintain a scholarship fund for future generations. Help us provide funds for scholarships for locally-grown apprentices who live, work, and contribute to our northeast Wyoming communities.

Keep our best and brightest in our communities where they can be active citizens and leaders. Train quality and hard-working linemen that provide safe and affordable electricity to rural northeast Wyoming.

This program is an employee-based initiative that supports the cooperative's mission and vision of being an employer of choice throughout the region and enhance service to our member/owners.

The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.

# Be aware of scams

Scammers will try just about anything to trick PRE-Corp members into handing over money or personal financial information. Be aware that many scam calls will have the deceptive caller ID of Powder River Energy, and the voice on the line will claim to represent PRECorp.

They may threaten to shut off power unless a payment is made over the phone. Others may ask you to wire money from a local store. Some of the scammers will be very pleasant on the phone, while others may be quite rude.

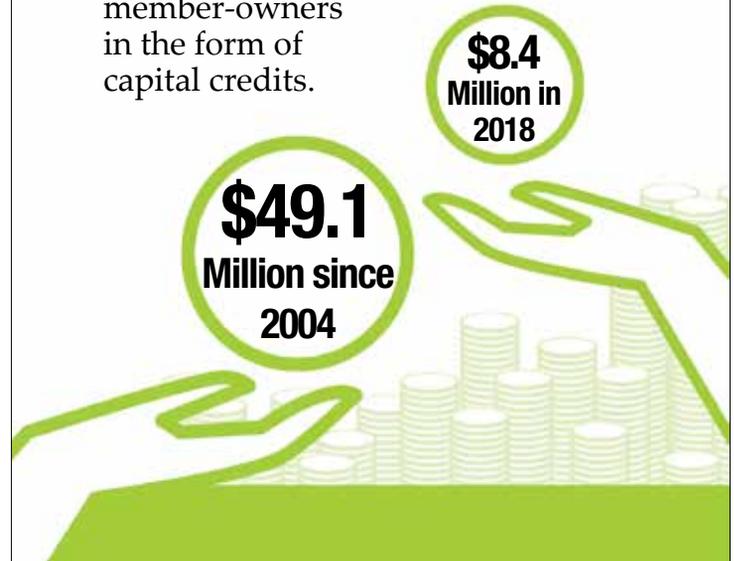
Do not engage the scammer on the phone. Just hang up and give PRECorp a call.

Businesses are often targeted. The crooks try to take advantage of short staffs or the boss being away to pull off the scam. Notify your employees about the threat of scam calls on evenings, holidays, or weekends.

Remember, the only number you can trust to ensure secure account and billing management is 1-800-442-3630. If you receive a call saying your bill is unpaid or past due, call our toll free number.

## Did You Know?

Powder River Energy has retired \$49.1 million to consumer-members since 2004 - \$8.4 million in 2018 alone. Because electric cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to member-owners in the form of capital credits.



## We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs



Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you – our members!

