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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

406-342-5521

MID-YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



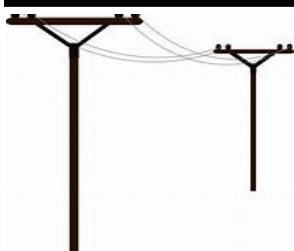
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 Jessica Welch.....Cust.Serv.Rep.

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P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .



SUMMER ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

- **Stay away from power lines:** Never approach downed power lines or anything touching them. Assume all power lines are energized and maintain a safe distance (at least 10 feet).
- **Use outdoor-rated equipment:** Use extension cords and electrical equipment specifically designed for outdoor use.
- **Inspect equipment:** Regularly inspect cords and equipment for damage and replace any damaged items.
- **Protect outlets:** Use weatherproof covers or GFCIs on outdoor outlets.
- **Grounding:** Ensure electrical equipment is properly grounded, especially when using it near water.
- **Ladder safety:** When using ladders near power lines, use a clean, dry wooden or fiberglass ladder and keep it well away from the lines.
- **Generators:** If using a generator, position it outdoors away from doors, windows, and vents, and never leave it unattended.
- **Storms:** Unplug appliances and secure loose objects during storms.
- **Teach children:** Educate children about the dangers of electricity and safe practices.

Source: Internet

2024 ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL CREDITS

For most of our active members who were members in 2024 you should have seen this message on your May bill statement: *****SAVE THIS BILL*****YOUR 2024 ALLOCATION INFORMATION IS ON THIS BILL. PLEASE RETAIN THIS BILL FOR YOUR PERMANENT RECORDS. Then in the 'Billing Messages' was an explanation of Allocations as well as the amount that was allocated from 2024 to your capital credit account. REMEMBER: 1. You do not owe these amounts. 2. These amounts are not now payable and do not represent cash but rather your equity in your Cooperative. 3. You cannot apply these amounts to your electric bill.

SUMMER IS CONSTRUCTION TIME — Remember to obtain an electrical permit!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Rural Montana

*The following essay, written by Abigayle Fay, a Forsyth High School sophomore, was selected by a cooperative committee as the winner in this spring's "Youth to Washington" contest. In June, Abigayle and 28 other Montana winners will join more than 1,500 students for a week in Washington D.C. to tour the sights and visit their congressmen. The topic that the students were asked to write about was: **What was the most important event to have occurred in our nation during your lifetime? How did it affect you?** Her essay is reprinted here for your enjoyment.*

Where were you when the world stopped turning, that September day? Ask any adult where they were on September 11, 2001 and they can tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing. Where was I on September 11, 2001? Well, I was nothing more than a twinkle in my mom and dad's eyes. You see, I wasn't born until the year 2009, nearly eight years after 9-11, but the aftermath of that pivotal event carried on through the year of my birth and many years thereafter. I cannot tell you what it felt like to experience the events of 9-11, but I can tell you about the most important event that happened to our country, in my lifetime, as a direct result. That is the War on Terror. The War on Terror was the longest war in American history. It is one of the most devastating, yet heroic events to ever happen. The war happened in Afghanistan and Iraq, and it affected the world as a whole, but it also affected me personally because my uncle was in the military at the time the war was going on. He fought in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for the War on Terror.

The war started on September 11, 2001, the day we remember. It was such a sad day and a monumental event, that it is still taught in schools today. Ever since I was little, I've heard about 9-11, but I didn't fully understand it until I entered Elementary school. Every year on September 11th, the teachers play videos about the World Trade Centers, and talk about it, telling us what happened that day. They explain that 9-11 changed America, not only launching us into war, but calling for changes in security like we had never seen before. Men and women responded by enlisting in the U.S. military services, while active service men and women were ready and honored to take up the fight against terror for our great nation.

My uncle Eric was one of those service men. Eric enlisted in the Army in September 1998 and served as a Green Beret in the Special Forces. During the War on Terror, he went on five Afghan tours, two Iraqi tours, one Egypt tour, one Jordan tour, and one Tajikistan tour. That is 10 tours of duty, where he was in combat or in a hostile environment to prevent another terrorist attack from occurring in America. Uncle Eric served in the Army until May 2017, retiring only two years before the War on Terror ended.

My uncle was in the army before I was born in 2009, and continued to serve until I was eight years old. I remember having a conversation at our dinner table with my mom about Eric being in the war when I was young. She was talking with my dad about my uncle being in the middle of combat, and I asked what they were talking about. She said, "Your uncle, Eric. He has to eat with a lot of people he doesn't know. He does not get to sit around the table with his family for dinner every night." At the time, I didn't even know I had another uncle, because I had never seen him in person, unlike all of my other family. I asked my mom why he had to eat with people he didn't know and she had said, "Because he's in another country, fighting bad people." I didn't understand, but she had gone back to talking with my dad about my uncle, his brother, so I didn't ask her what she meant. Over time, of course, I understood what my parents meant, and just how important it was to our nation and our family personally.

I've had to live in a time of war that I wasn't even alive to see start, almost my entire life. My generation has grown up thinking it is normal for America to be at war, because that has been our experience. I have lived through a war for 2/3 of my life. Although I didn't really understand what was happening in my younger years, the War on Terror still affected me. My uncle was away for so long serving in the military, that I was denied the opportunity to get to know him well. I heard many stories about my Uncle Eric, but they were always told to me from other family members, not from Eric directly. All my grandparents' stories were told to me from their mouths, but my uncle's stories never were.

By the end of his 19 years of service, my Uncle Eric earned four Bronze Star Medals, a Bronze Star Medal with Valor, two Purple Hearts, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal with Valor, three NCO Professional Development Ribbons, an Air Assault Badge, a Combat Infantry Badge, an Expert Infantry Badge, a Parachutist Badge, and a Special Forces Tab. I did not understand the full awesomeness of his army experience until my 6th grade year, when I interviewed him for a school project. It was then that I realized my Uncle Eric is a military hero for our family and for all American citizens. The sacrifices he made, putting his life in danger and being away from his family, were to protect this nation during the War on Terror. The motto of the green beret is "De Oppresso Liber," which means, "free the oppressed." Uncle Eric said to me, "This is the greatest country on the planet. I am lucky to be a citizen of this country. We need to do what we can to make the world a better place. I have been blessed to make a difference in people's lives. Take your talents and gifts and use them to the best of your ability."

How lucky I am to learn such important life lessons from my uncle! The extensive War on Terror was the most important event to occur during my lifetime. I personally count myself blessed to have learned that amidst the death, destruction, and fear of war, come patriotism, humanitarianism, and heroism.