

## SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

# 2022

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## KENZIE TOOKE AND DARIN SCHALLENBERGER AWARDED

**S**OUTHEAST Electric Cooperative encourages students and members to continue learning. Scholarship funds are a good way to help with this goal. Since 2009, Southeast Electric has awarded

more than \$65,000 worth of scholarships. We consider it an investment in the future of our cooperative. The 2022 recipients are Kenzie Tooke and Darin Schallenberg. RM

### KENZIE TOOKE

Kenzie Tooke, daughter of J.O. and Kim Tooke of Ekalaka, has been awarded the Southeast Electric Essay Scholarship for 2022 in the amount of \$1,000. Kenzie was asked to answer the question "What will you do to continue to support your community in the future?" Kenzie's plans are to obtain a major in elementary education and a minor in special education. "Teachers are heroes in the community," she said. She would like to teach for a few years and then return to Ekalaka. She also would like to serve on a board, such as the weed board, hospital board or even the Southeast Electric Board. Kenzie plans to attend college at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. Congratulations Kenzie!



### DARIN SCHALLENBERGER

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Southeast Electric Cooperative Inc. Darin Schallenberg is the 2022 recipient of this scholarship. Darin was asked "What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years, and how do you think challenges should be addressed?" Darin feels that the biggest threat to cooperatives are larger corporations, corporations that will drive costs up and put smaller rural cooperatives into decisions that require them to raise their charges. He feels that we need to continue to promote the smaller cooperatives and educate the public about the benefits of cooperatives. Darin's plans are to attend the University of Montana-Western to study business administration with a focus on farm and ranch operation. Darin is the son of LeRoy and Jennifer Schallenberg. Congratulations Darin!



# Jake Hammel named line foreman

Jake Hammel has taken the helm as the line foreman at Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO). Jake has been at SECO for 12 years, and is ready for the new responsibility. He feels that the key to successful leadership is to listen to your crew.

"The crew has enough knowledge and skill to do the work safely and effectively. The line foreman's responsibility is to have the materials and equipment to do the job. Communication is the key to meeting the member's needs while still completing the projects in the cooperative's best interest."

When asked what the next 10 years may hold, Jake said he would like to bring SECO further ahead using the new technology the electrical field has to offer.

"Technology can help minimize outages while still providing safe, quality, and affordable power. It can tell us where the problem areas are, and tell us where we have outages sometimes before our members even know themselves," he said. In the last 12 years, Jake has seen many changes so he feels it is hard to see what the future has in store. "SECO will work hard to meet the needs of new members and continue to provide the same or better service to our existing valued members."

Jake and his wife Chioko have three children, Masa, Hiro and Mai. Chioko is the science teacher at Carter County High School in Ekalaka. Jake spends his spare time



12-year SECO employee, Jake Hammel, has been named Line Foreman.

enjoying his family, doing some fishing and forging knives. He served our country for six years in the Army National Guard 163rd Mechanized Infantry out of Billings, and was honorably discharged. He served one year in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When asked if he "could go anywhere in this world where would he go?" He stated he has traveled a lot and loves the small community. But if he could be anywhere, he would just take Ekalaka and put it where there isn't as much wind and cold weather.

Congratulations Jake! RM

## A new face at SECO: Lineman Dave Loudermilk

Dave Loudermilk has joined the Southeast Electric Cooperative family.

He attended Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, Idaho. He began work on April 1st. Dave's hobbies include scuba diving, fly fishing and traveling. He has attended the Hot Air

Balloon Festival and enjoys going to Alaska. He has two really cute kids, Kaden and McKenna. When asked why he chose Southeast Electric, Dave stated it brought him closer to his people (those cute kids). Welcome Dave! RM



SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

**2022**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 10, 2022**

**4:00 PM - REGISTRATION**

**5:00 PM - FREE SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT BY**

**6:00 PM - BUSINESS MEETING**

**2 - \$500.00**  
CASH PRIZES

**Jerilyn Wiseman & Ty Taylor**  
MENDENHALL CROSSING

