

# 9 students win water-safety poster contest

Never dive in water shallower than you. Wear a wetsuit in cold water. Never swim in a storm.

That's the advice students offered in their prizewinning entries in PPL Montana's fall water-safety poster contest. And it's good advice in a state where drowning is one of the leading causes of death among children ages 14 and under.

"This fun contest provides a way for teachers to give their students important water safety information that could save a child's life," said Lisa Perry, PPL Montana's Community Affairs manager. "We're pleased to support our Montana communities and give the children a chance to show off their creativity."

More than 130 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders from Montana schools responded to PPL's call for poster entries. Three prizewinners were selected from each grade level and are featured in a special 2007 calendar that has been distributed to

schools, community leaders and PPL Montana facilities.

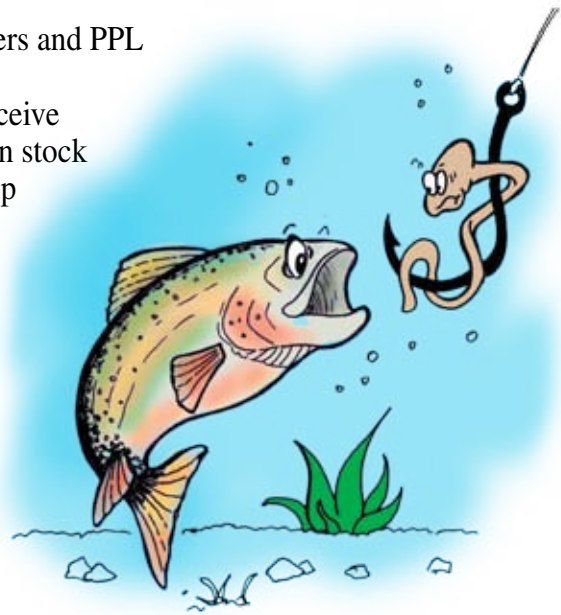
Grand-prize winners receive shares of PPL Corporation stock valued at \$100; runners-up receive shares of PPL Corporation stock valued at \$75; and honorable-mention winners receive shares of PPL Corporation stock valued at \$50.

## The three grand-prize winners are:

- **Morgan Habel**, third grade, Rimview Christian School, Billings.
- **Keyen Gardner**, fourth grade, Shepherd Elementary School, Shepherd.
- **Olivia Paulson**, fifth grade, Meadowlark Elementary School, Billings.

## The runners-up are:

- **Jacob Cook**, third grade, Chief Charlo Elementary School, Missoula.
- **Tyler Nicholson**, fourth grade, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Great Falls.
- **Logan Naegeli**, fifth grade, Thompson Falls Elementary School, Thompson Falls.



## The honorable-mention recipients are:

- **Warren Wood**, third grade, Thompson Falls Elementary School, Thompson Falls.
- **Olivia Longin**, fourth grade, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Great Falls.
- **Shannon Saint**, fifth grade, Thompson Falls Elementary School, Thompson Falls.

Teachers of the grand-prize winners each receive \$50 for instructional materials and supplies. They are Elaine Svec, Rimview Christian School, Billings; Laura Moen, Shepherd Elementary School, Shepherd; and Josh Miller, Meadowlark Elementary School, Billings.

## Advisory committee *(Continued from page 1)*

Meetings of the group are being held quarterly. The second meeting was in December. At the meetings, Colstrip Plant Advisory Committee members heard updates on plant operations, including an overhaul of Unit 1 in which major boiler and turbine modifications were made and the control system was replaced. They also learned more about mercury and other environmental issues facing the plant and heard about local organizations that have received grants

from PPL Montana's Community Fund.

"We created the committee as a way to provide information about PPL Montana and plant operation to the community," Dennehy said. "But it's intended for two-way communication. We want to help understand and resolve any concerns that residents have.

"We received several compliments from PAC members for forming the group," he added.

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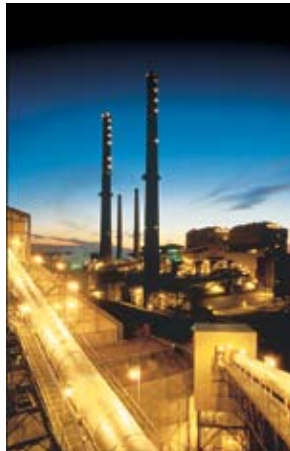
## “Top 20” (Continued from page 3)

only two other plants on the top 20 list were smaller — Duke Energy’s Marshall plant in North Carolina at 2,090 megawatts and Pinnacle West’s Four Corners plant in New Mexico at 2,040 megawatts.

“This is an impressive achievement, especially when you look at the size of some of the other plants on the list like Southern Company’s Scherer plant, which has a capacity of 3,346 megawatts,” said Neil Dennehy, Colstrip plant manager. “All of the Colstrip employees are to be commended for the tremendous job they do to keep the plant well-maintained and operating reliably and safely day after day.”

Only First Energy’s Bruce Mansfield plant in Pennsylvania, Ameren’s Labadie plant in Missouri and TXU’s Martin Lake plant in Texas had higher capacity factors than Colstrip — Mansfield at 88.7 percent, Labadie at 92.5 percent and Martin Lake at 91.8 percent.

There were 451 coal-fired plants reporting operating data for the 2005 rankings, Dennehy said.



*Montana Currents* is your source of information about PPL Montana’s commitment to the environment and our communities. It’s just one more way we’re putting our energy into Montana communities.

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# MONTANA CURRENTS



Winter 2007

## PPL Montana donates funds for low-income energy assistance

Winter is a difficult time when you're struggling to pay high heating bills. To help, PPL Montana will donate \$50,000 to Energy Share to assist low-income Montanans.

In addition, \$50,000 in Universal System Benefits funds from the Colstrip power plant has been donated to Energy Share by PPL Montana and the other Colstrip power plant owners.

"Donating these funds to Energy Share will make \$100,000 available to those Montanans who most need extra help this winter," said Brad Spencer, vice president and chief operating officer for PPL Montana.

Energy Share is a nonprofit group that offers emergency home-heating assistance for consumers who don't qualify for other programs.

Universal System Benefits funds are state-mandated contributions that companies can choose to designate for energy conservation, renewable resource projects and applications, or low-income energy assistance.

"PPL Montana is committed to



supporting Montana communities and families," Spencer said. "We are pleased to be able to assist those in our communities who can't afford their energy bills, and can't get other help."



## Advisory committee formed for Colstrip plant

In September, about 15 local government leaders, representatives of environmental groups and community and business leaders in the Colstrip area got together for the first meeting of the Colstrip Plant Advisory Committee.

"The plant advisory committee offers us an opportunity to reach out to the community and find ways we can be a better corporate citizen," said Neil Dennehy, Colstrip plant manager.

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# Application to renew Mystic Dam license filed

In mid-December, PPL Montana officially asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to renew its federal license to generate electricity at the Mystic Lake hydroelectric facility.

The Mystic Final License Application was the first one in the country under FERC's new Integrated Licensing Process, which is aimed at increasing public participation, enhancing regulatory efficiency and reducing the time necessary to license projects. The process incorporates consideration of hydro operations, fisheries, wildlife, habitat, water quality, recreation, cultural resources and aesthetics around each hydroelectric facility.

"This application to FERC reflects the significant benefits of a collaborative process among all the stakeholders," said Brad Spencer, PPL Montana's vice president and chief operating officer. "We appreciate the time and hard work of the participants over the past three years since we began the re-licensing effort."

Although the company's existing license to generate electricity at Mystic doesn't expire until Dec. 31, 2009, the FERC renewal process must begin 5 to 5.5 years ahead of time. Power companies that use dams to produce energy need to renew their licenses from FERC every 30 to 50 years. FERC issues and oversees operating licenses for about 2,500 hydropower dams across the country.

Built in 1925, the 12-megawatt Mystic facility is on West Rosebud Creek in the Beartooth Mountains, 75 miles southwest of Billings. A



megawatt provides electricity for about 750 homes.

"FERC's new licensing process enabled PPL Montana to engage the public, resource agencies, elected officials and tribal representatives early in the process to resolve issues and make good, informed decisions with cost-effective outcomes," Spencer said.

More information about the Mystic hydroelectric facility and the Final License Application document is available online at [www.mysticlakeproject.com](http://www.mysticlakeproject.com).

Copies of the license application are available for public review at the PPL Montana Billings office by calling 406-237-6900 and at the PPL Montana Butte office by calling 406-533-3413. It also may be reviewed at U.S. Forest Service, Red Lodge Ranger District, 6811 Highway 212, in Red Lodge, or Stillwater County Planning Office, 809 E. Fourth Ave. N., Suite C, in Columbus.



A \$1,000 grant from PPL Montana's local contributions committee in Butte has helped stock a student store at the Margaret Leary Elementary School that is being used to motivate kids to read and practice their math skills.

"Education is one of the cornerstones of our giving program," said Todd Tregidga, accounting analyst for PPL Montana and coordinator for the committee. "We've developed partnerships with the schools in Butte. This store is a creative carrot to entice students to learn."

The "Mustang Mercantile," named after the school mascot, features merchandise such as notebooks, giant inflatable gorillas, bracelets, pencils, erasers, fuzzy hats and stickers. Students can purchase items using Mustang Bucks, which they earn by reading with their family at night, participating in the Math Club or completing individualized monthly reading goals — all independent of their reading and math assignments for class, said Jim O'Neill, principal at the school.

"PPL has made a big difference at our school. The store has been a huge success," O'Neill said, noting that nearly 60 percent of the 265 students in Grades 1 through 6 are making their reading goals — double the number that were before the store opened.

PPL Montana's local contributions committees were established so employees could be involved in the charitable giving process and community projects. The Butte committee, made up of PPL Montana and PPL EnergyPlus employees, is responsible for local community giving for the Butte area and for all of PPL Montana's hydroelectric facilities.

## Colstrip plant makes national 'Top 20' list

PPL Montana's Colstrip plant made Electric Light & Power magazine's "Top 20 Coal Generators Ranked by Generation" for its 2005 production of 16,240,783 megawatt-hours of electricity. The magazine published the rankings in its November-December 2006 issue.

The plant was ranked 15th on the list for total megawatt hours, but its 88.5 percent capacity factor was beaten by only three other plants. Capacity factor measures reliability by comparing the electricity produced to what a unit could produce if it operated 100 percent of the time at full power.

With a total capacity of 2,094 megawatts for Colstrip's four units,

*(Continued on back page)*

## PPL Montana proposes improvements to benefit Flathead Lake shoreline

PPL Montana has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for improvements intended to benefit the entire Flathead Lake shoreline.

The improvements include construction of an erosion control gravel beach along the federal Waterfowl Production Area on the lake's north shore, together with development of backshore wetland habitat. PPL Montana also proposes to voluntarily reduce the elevation



## Funds will help river recreation projects

Public recreation projects along the Madison and Missouri rivers are receiving a boost from \$586,295 in grants from PPL Montana and the Missouri-Madison River Fund.

"These funds are a combination of PPL Montana contributions and matching grants from the Missouri-Madison River Fund, a \$6.9 million trust fund for public recreation," said Jon Jourdonnais, PPL Montana's director of Hydro Licensing and Compliance.

The River Fund was created through the collaborative efforts of PPL Montana; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Cascade and Chouteau counties; and other public and private partners.

"We're proud to support our Montana communities and families by helping to enhance recreational opportunities," Jourdonnais said. "We are committed to responsible stewardship of outdoor recreational resources near our facilities, and this is one of the ways we demonstrate that commitment."

PPL Montana's funding to support the River Fund is part of an overall \$23 million commitment for recreational and other wildlife, fisheries, habitats and water quality river stewardship projects along a 524-mile portion of the Madison-Missouri River corridor.

Through the River Fund, Jourdonnais said, PPL Montana has contributed a total of \$10 million for development of 32 recreation projects under its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Missouri-Madison Project License.

To date a total of \$16.5 million in public recreation projects have been completed with the assistance of River Fund grants. Of that, \$7 million has come from the PPL Montana funding. For the 2006 awards, the company is contributing \$200,000.

PPL Montana has nine facilities under its Missouri-Madison FERC license, issued in 2000. These are Hebgen, Madison, Hauser and Holter, as well as five in the Great Falls area — Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony.

# PPL Montana named ‘Monarch Habitat Partner’ by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

In recognition of PPL Montana’s support, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has named the company a “Monarch Habitat Partner.”

Lisa Perry, PPL Montana’s community affairs manager, presented a \$10,000 Community Fund grant to the foundation in November. The grant brings the total of PPL Montana’s contributions to the foundation to \$25,500.

“We are grateful for PPL Montana’s support of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation,” said Peter J. Dart, the organization’s president and chief executive officer. “PPL Montana’s donations are helping to conserve more habitat for elk and other wildlife, educate more young people and leave a wildlife legacy for future generations.”

The foundation already has conserved or enhanced more than 4.7 million acres of habitat for elk and other wildlife through projects in 49 states and eight Canadian provinces.

PPL’s donations are used to fund conservation education. With the 2006 Community Fund grant, the foundation will develop hands-on, science-based programs to teach children about the unique plant and animal species that are part of western Montana’s natural environment. About 4,000 students each year are expected to participate in the programs.

“We are proud to partner with the foundation to help Montana’s youth learn about and appreciate the



unique environment of our beautiful state,” Perry said. “Since 2005, PPL Montana has contributed more than \$400,000 through its Community Fund to 63 organizations for projects that improve the quality of education, enhance the environment and spur economic development throughout Montana.”

As a Monarch Habitat Partner, PPL Montana is recognized in a display at the foundation’s Elk Country Visitor Center in Missoula.

of Flathead Lake to 2,891 feet on or about Nov. 1 each year.

“PPL Montana takes seriously its responsibility to provide reliable power and minimize the environmental effects of all its generating facilities,” said Jon Jourdonnais, the company’s director of Hydro Licensing and Compliance. “We strive to reach an appropriate balance among the need for electricity generation, public recreation and resource protection at all of our Montana hydroelectric facilities.

“Making these improvements will significantly enhance shoreline ecology around Flathead Lake, while protecting shoreline and recreation infrastructure. Also, conditions permitting, it will generally enhance river flows in the fall to benefit fisheries and aquatic habitats downstream.”

Flathead Lake provides water storage for PPL Montana’s Kerr Dam

hydroelectric generating facility, located about five miles southwest of Polson, which began operating in 1938.

“Historically, Flathead Lake elevation has averaged about 2,892.2 feet on Nov. 1,” Jourdonnais said. “The more than one-foot drop in elevation proposed will greatly reduce lakewide shoreline erosion in the fall, which is a product of wind-driven storm waves, boat wakes, shoreline topography and types of shoreline development, as well as lake elevation.”

The soft gravel beach erosion design PPL Montana is proposing has been rigorously tested and proven effective on Flathead Lake shorelines by the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station, Jourdonnais said. “This soft gravel erosion beach system is much more aesthetically and environmentally compatible and effective at absorbing wave-induced erosion than the more conventional

hard or fixed rip-rap, or masonry or stone wall-type shoreline erosion control structures.”

PPL Montana will consult with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of the Interior; the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and other stakeholders to reach a mutually agreeable plan for erosion control at the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, he said.

“Since the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and PPL Montana are co-licensees for the Kerr hydroelectric project, we also have consulted with the tribal council regarding the north shore Waterfowl Production Area erosion beach design and PPL Montana’s fall Flathead Lake elevation proposal,” Jourdonnais said.