

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

DECEMBER 2017

*May your homes –
and hearts – be filled with
warmth this holiday season.*

Merry Christmas, and have
a safe, prosperous and
happy New Year,
from the board of
directors, manager
and staff at Roughrider
Electric Cooperative.

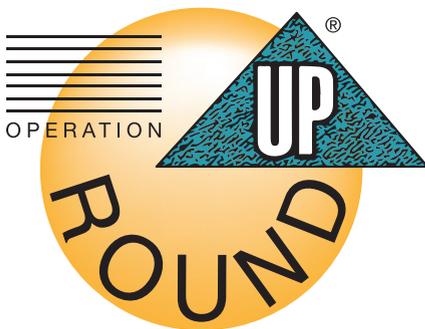
What's inside:

- **Local grants improve quality of life**
- **Roughrider offers student scholarships**
- **Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**
- **Know your power requirements before buying a portable generator**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

In the past when children needed to be transported by Mercer County Ambulance Service, they had to ride in a typical, bulky car seat that was difficult to move and store. Thanks to an Operation Round Up grant provided by Roughrider Electric Cooperative, the service was able to purchase a streamlined child-restraint system that "packs up nicely."



OPERATION ROUND UP

Improving the quality of life locally, thanks to participating co-op members

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

It is every parent's nightmare: There's been an accident, and their child has to be transported by ambulance for medical treatment. It doesn't happen very often in Mercer County — but it does happen.

Marcy Sailer, co-manager and paramedic with Mercer County Ambulance Service, says she's had to transport children for various reasons ranging from car accidents to asthma attacks.

In the past, some of those kids

had to ride in a typical, bulky car seat that was difficult to move and store in the tight quarters of the ambulance. Recently, the Mercer County Ambulance Service was able to purchase a streamlined child-restraint system that "packs

up nicely,” thanks to an Operation Round Up grant provided by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change to local individuals, groups or charities with a specific need. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of seven co-op members reviews the grant applications biannually that have been submitted and determines grant worthiness.

Sailer says the budget is always tight for Mercer County Ambulance Service, and that every donation adds up to make a difference.

“It takes a load off our budget, in trying to figure out ways to pay for equipment,” she says. “Thank you. It helped us a lot.”

The Mercer County Ambulance Service has headquarters in Hazen and an office in Beulah.

Grants distributed

More than 60 percent of Roughrider Electric members participate in this voluntary program, and each tax-deductible contribution averages between \$6 and \$7 per year, per metered account.

Nearly \$22,000 was distributed in January and about \$20,500 was distributed in July, totaling \$41,684 in upgrades that improve the quality of life across Oliver, Mercer, Dunn, Stark and Billings counties. Over the lifetime of the program, which began in the Roughrider service area in August 2002, \$432,864 has been raised and donated locally. Starting in January 2018, all of North Dakota’s electric distribution cooperatives will participate in the

Operation Round Up program, which operates on a national level, with donations earned locally staying local.

Here at Roughrider, the Charitable Trust board members are chosen from all of the districts within the service area. Our current directors are Deb Folk, Casey Gjermundson, Curt Glasoe, Linda Krebs, Kathy Reis, Donna Mae Smith and Rhonda Steffan.

2017 grant recipients included:

- Stark County Veterans Service Office, for veterans vouchers for transportation
- Hazen Food Pantry, for a refrigerator and freezer
- Hazen Senior Citizen Center, for a sign for center
- Knights of Columbus, for new doors for social center
- Hazen Fire Department, for a Jaws of Life
- Catholic Community Quilters, for material for quilts
- Hope Christian Academy, for interactive promethean boards
- Mercer County Ambulance, for transportation equipment
- Hazen Public Library, for an automated external defibrillator
- Richardton Saddle Club, for the expansion and replacement of the facility
- Badland Ministries, for bunk beds and dining room chairs
- Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care, for playground equipment
- Camp ReCreation, for a computer
- South Heart Senior Citizens, for an automated external defibrillator
- Golden Valley City Park, for playground equipment

- Hill Top Heritage Foundation Killdeer, for an electronic vitals machine
- Injured Military Project of North Dakota, for a hunting trip
- Belfield Volunteer Fire Department, for turnout gear
- Belfield Theater, for a microphone and stands
- Hazen Heritage Park Renewal, for park Improvements
- Oliver County Gun Club, for an archery backstop
- Maah Daah Hey Trail, for a trail bench
- South Heart Lion’s Club, for a park shelter
- Common Threads, for material for quilts
- Zap Rural Fire Protection District, for papers
- Boy Scout Troop 1026, for tents

Apply for a 2018 grant

The next application deadline will be Jan. 1, 2018. The Operation Round Up board is scheduled to meet in January.

Any person or group in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application or to opt into the program, contact our business office at 1-800-748-5533 or download the form at www.roughriderelectric.com and click “Your Community” and “Operation Round Up.”

Operation Round Up is successful because of the generosity of our members. The foundation board, the cooperative board and staff thank you for your participation. ■



COOPERATIVE OFFERS

SCHOLARSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys, and are offering \$8,500 in college scholarships to area students.

We will award nine, \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Hope Christian Academy, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor and South Heart will select one graduating senior to receive the funds.

Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to Roughrider Electric.

The co-op will also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area. The recipient must have parents who are members of our cooperative.

Roughrider Electric is also awarding one \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

We award the scholarship to a student already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric are eligible to apply.

Roughrider is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric.

Roughrider is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric.

New this year: Luck of the Draw scholarships

Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 6 in Hazen. All high school seniors who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent, and will be required to RSVP for the meeting. See website listed below for RSVP form.

Students can find the applications on our website, roughriderelectric.com. Forms are also available at our local offices in Hazen and Dickinson.

Fill out our online application or mail paper applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 800 Hwy. Dr., Hazen, ND 58545.

Return completed applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative before Feb. 5, 2018. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2017 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCT. 27, 2017

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Hazen on October 26.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 29, 2017, meeting.

Manager's report: Don Franklund presented the manager's report.

General capital credit retirement: The Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$1,200,000 in Capital Credits for 2017.

2018 draft budget: Mr. Kupper led the Board through the 2018 Operating Budget, including the assumptions utilized in preparation of the same.

Nominating Committee names: The Board was reminded to bring their Nominating Committee names to the December Board meeting.

Safety Coordinator report: The Board was referred to Mr. Stastny's written report.

Chief Financial Officer report: Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. He discussed with the Board matters pertaining to line and pole inspections.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on Nov. 30, 2017, at Roughrider's office in Dickinson, N.D.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Know your power requirements before shopping for a portable generator

Roughrider Electric Cooperative works hard to build what Mother Nature tears down — but in the meantime, electrical service can still be interrupted. While line crews make every effort to keep these interruptions brief, natural disasters and North Dakota's unpredictable weather may cause extended power outages when people need electric service the most.

If going without power is a concern, you can take a proactive step to avoid lapses by installing an automatic standby power generator. A distributor that can order generators, West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS) in Mandan can work with members to size the generator properly. The process includes reviewing an average

wattage requirement guide and filling out a questionnaire, with assistance from WDUS.

Joe Meier, WDUS chief operations officer, stresses it is important to have the unit sized appropriately, so it does not create issues with appliances. It also needs to be installed by a qualified technician, so it does not backfeed electricity into the power grid, and harm the linemen or the general public.

WDUS technicians can also inspect the generator annually, to make sure the electrical components are in working order.

"We offer sales and service for the customer," Meier says.

If you are interested in purchasing a portable generator, now's a great time

to assess your needs so you have a generator on-hand before the really bad weather hits.

West Dakota Utility Services is an independent business owned by Roughrider, Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperatives. It services utility trucks, in addition to contractors and customers who have vehicles that need hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification. WDUS also repairs welders, engines and utility tools including crimpers and hydraulic tamps, and is a distributor that can order hydraulic tools and generators.

If WDUS can help you with a project or repair, or fix you up with a generator, call 701-663-4365 or email wdus@btinet.net. ■

LIGHT YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH LEDS

The winter holiday season has officially begun, and with it comes the frenzy of decorating, holiday gatherings and gift buying. Don't let your energy-saving efforts fall by the wayside amid all the festivities.

This holiday, light up your home with LED lights. In addition to being sturdier and more resistant to breakage, LED holiday lights also last longer and consume 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. It only costs 27 cents to light a 6-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days with LEDs, compared to \$10 for incandescent lights.

LED – or light-emitting diode – holiday lights are much more efficient than traditional incandescent lights. While the initial purchase price of LED light strings is higher,

consider the cost of running each type of light string for 12 hours per day for 40 days:

Type of light	Electricity cost *
Standard C-7 (125 bulbs, 4 watts each)	\$25.13
Mini incandescent lights (300 bulbs, 0.4 watts each)	\$6.03
LED holiday lights (280 bulbs, 0.04 watts each)	56 cents

*Assumes an electricity price of 10.5 cents per kilowatt-hour.
Source: U.S. Department of Energy

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 9-15, 2018

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to bquenette@roughriderelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.

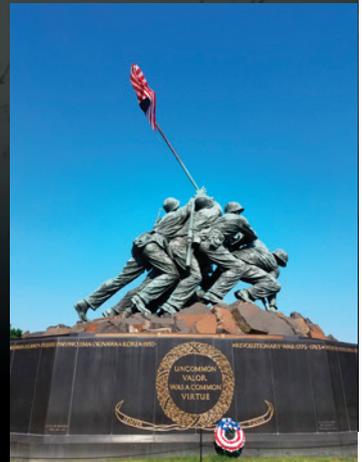
TOP 3 REASONS

TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:

There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE
701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE
701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
 Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
 Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
 Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
 William Retterath; Center794-8729
 Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
 Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
 Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
 Callen Schoch; New England579-4395

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund General Manager/CEO



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twitter.com/RoughriderCoop

Need Help with Heating Costs? LIHEAP can help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance



www.communityoptionsnd.com

Holiday closings

Our entire organization wishes our member-owners a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year! In observance of the holidays in December and January, Roughrider Electric will be closed:

- **Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas**
- **Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, for New Year's Day**

Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.