

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

DECEMBER 2021

*May all your wishes  
come true!*

**The board of directors, managers and staff at Roughrider Electric Cooperative wish you a joyous Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.**

## What's inside:

- **Apply for Youth Tour!**
- **Scholarships offered**
- **Be festive and frugal**
- **Meeting minutes and more**



# A SAFE HARBOR: Women's Action and Resource Center

BY LUANN DART

*Lisa Weisz, the Women's Action and Resource Center director, stands in the center's community food pantry.*

**N**o one should live in fear of violence, so the Women’s Action and Resource Center (WARC) in Beulah offers a safety net.

“The main reason we are here is for support and services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence,” says Lisa Weisz, the WARC director.

The center has also added a community food pantry for use by anyone in need.

WARC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in rural North Dakota. The center works to educate the public about all forms of domestic and sexual violence, available services and violence prevention, with the ultimate goal of eliminating violence in our society, the WARC website states.

Services include a 24-hour crisis line at 701-873-2274.

Other services include:

- Emergency shelter
- Crisis intervention
- Judicial advocacy
- Information and referral
- Safety planning
- Counseling
- Awareness and prevention education
- Food pantry
- Speakers bureau

“It’s all about what they need, and we provide a variety of options available to them,” Weisz says. “Ultimately, it’s their decision what they can do at that time.”

The center and the food pantry serves Mercer, Oliver and the eastern quarter of Dunn counties.

The center opened in 1979, with the food pantry following a few years later to serve the area.

WARC serves an average of 55 new victims of crime each year, peaking at about 100 during the population boom.

“If you help one person, that’s how valuable it is,” Weisz says. “Even though it’s probably about 55 new victims, there are still others we continue to see.”

While the center’s clients are about 95% women, it does assist men as well.

“Nobody should live in fear of violence in a relationship,” Weisz says. “They should be respected and loved.”

“Abusers are all about power and control,” she says.

“Everything here is confidential. We have no judgments about what is going on. Our job is to help them with whatever issues are currently most pressing for them, whether that is to leave or just get information,” Weisz

says. “The most dangerous time for a person is when they leave. We just let them know how important their safety is and we are there at every step of the way.”

“It could be your neighbors or the person sitting beside you in church,” she says, as there is no specific demographic for domestic violence.

“We want to help wherever we can,” she says. “I’m amazed with the strength and courage they have to get through what’s handed to them.”

One woman arrived at the shelter with a gash in her head and frightened children.

“She was a wonderful gal and full of life and her kids were beautiful kids and we were able to get them to safety,” Weisz says.

Not everyone is able to leave their abusive situation. “There are so many things that keep you in that situation, unfortunately,” she says.

“What we should be asking is why he or she (the abuser) doesn’t stop the abuse,” she says.

## **Food pantry needs**

The center accepts any food items, as long as they are not home-processed. Crackers or snacks for children, cheese, cereals, shampoos or other hygiene products are top needs right now. Diapers and baby wipes are also welcomed.

Groceries to fulfill baking needs this time of year, such as sugars or flour, are also welcomed.

“Whatever you think you would need for the holidays, it would be all helpful,” Weisz says. “It’s not always something we can get from the food truck.”

The community has been supportive of the center’s needs, she says.

“I can’t say enough good about our community,” she says. Roughrider Electric Cooperative has donated to WARC with cash and food over the years.

Donations can be left at the office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1500 Seventh St. N.E. in Beulah.

In 2020, the food pantry served 601 individuals and shared 57,000 pounds of food. So far in 2021, the pantry has served 473 individuals and shared 47,749 pounds of food. The center also has a senior commodity food program through the Great Plains Food Bank to provide additional food for senior citizens every other month.

“The community has been very helpful for us realizing our goals and achieving what we’ve been able to achieve and the people we’ve been able to help and I can’t thank everyone enough for their support,” she says.

To learn more, visit [www.mercerwarc.com](http://www.mercerwarc.com). ■

**JUNE 19 TO 24, 2022**



# WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

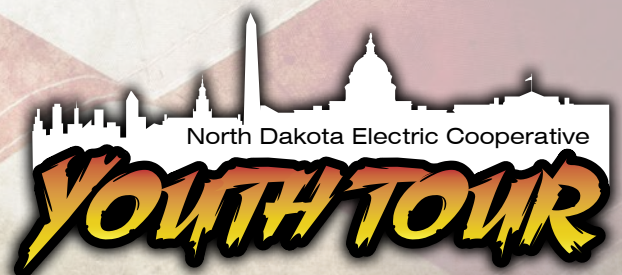
- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at 800-748-5533 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Dec. 10, 2021. You can email entries to Brad Quenette at [bquenette@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:bquenette@roughriderelectric.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 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:

*If you were asked to help promote your cooperative's annual membership meeting, what ideas do you have for increasing attendance among young member-owners and students? Please provide specific examples for unique communications strategies, scheduling and special activities for member-owners and their families.*



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT  
[www.roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour](http://www.roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour)

## Co-op offers scholarships

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative is offering \$8,500 in college scholarships to area students. The co-op will award nine \$500 scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Dickinson Hope Christian Academy choose a graduating senior to receive the funds.

### Interested in applying?

Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will forward each recipient's name to Roughrider.

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 is offering a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

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

### Roughrider Electric Cooperative is also offering one \$500 lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction LLC.

Owned in part by Roughrider Electric, 3C Construction employs lineworkers who travel, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed.

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 whose parents are members of Roughrider Electric.

### Roughrider Electric Cooperative is also offering one \$500 mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS).

Also owned in part by Roughrider Electric, WDUS services utility vehicles, farm trucks and machinery, and equipment that needs hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification.

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 whose parents are members of Roughrider Electric.

### Roughrider Electric Cooperative will award three \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships at our annual meeting on June 1 in Dickinson.



All high school seniors whose parents 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. Students can find the applications and RSVP

form on our website: [www.roughriderelectric.com/scholarships](http://www.roughriderelectric.com/scholarships).

You may also call 800-748-5533 to request an application. ■

Mail applications to:  
**Roughrider Electric Cooperative**  
**Attn: Scholarship Committee**  
**800 Highway Dr.**  
**Hazen, ND 58545**

*The due date to apply is Feb. 1, 2022.*

## Snowbirds, have you signed up for SmartHub?



**M**embers, are you leaving home for all or part of the winter? Make sure you are signed up for SmartHub to receive important cooperative updates, like

planned power outages, while you are away! You will receive a text message or email notifying you of important information related to your electric service.

Now's a good time to also make sure Roughrider Electric has your current contact information! To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update, call 800-748-5533. Or, log into your SmartHub account to update your information.

If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com) and selecting Your Account, Payment Options and SmartHub.

Roughrider also has a Facebook page! Please like and follow to learn timely cooperative and community news.

Members, thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed! ■

## 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 Cooperative will be closed:**

**Thursday and Friday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, for Christmas**

**Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Eve**

*Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage.*

## Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2021 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021. 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](mailto: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. 29, 2021

**When, where and who:** A regular meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative (Roughrider) was called to order at 9:09 a.m. MT at the Stark County Veterans Pavilion in Dickinson.

**Agenda:** The board reviewed, added to and approved the agenda.

**Co-managers' report:** Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

The North Dakota managers held a meeting earlier, and three Montana cooperatives were invited to attend because they serve North Dakota loads. The mutual aid process was discussed, and how the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives can assist with this.

**Capital credit retirement:** Kupper reviewed Alex Craigmile's 2021 general retirement presentation with the board.

**Transmission and substation maintenance work plan:** The board reviewed the transmission and substation maintenance work plan submitted by Roughrider's engineers. This has been implemented because Roughrider has transmission line and substations. This work plan will set the standards for the

cooperative's transmission and substations. If an event occurs that is covered by FEMA, Roughrider will be able to make sure its transmission lines and substations are repaired or replaced in accordance with this plan.

**Operations report:** Jason Bentz provided the board with additional information on his written report. An outage report for September, which shows reduced numbers, was also provided, as well as Roughrider's Safety Committee meeting minutes.

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

# Be festive, and frugal!

The winter nights lit with holiday lights. Friends and families gathering for holiday celebrations. With all the festivities, it may seem impossible to be frugal this holiday season. But with these energy-saving tips from Roughrider Electric Cooperative, it is possible to both celebrate and save money.

## Lighting the holidays

- Replace your old holiday lights with light-emitting diode (LED) light strings.

In addition to using 70% less energy than traditional bulbs, they're brighter and safer, as they are much cooler than incandescent lights. In addition, they are easier to install – up to 24 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

- Plug your indoor and outdoor lighting displays into a timer set to run during the earlier evening hours. If you don't use a timer, be sure to unplug your lights when you go to sleep or leave home.

## Entertaining

- Cook as many dishes as possible in your microwave over the holidays. Because microwaves cook food so quickly, the typical model uses as much as 75% less energy than a conventional oven.

- Use your slow cooker. For about 17 cents worth of electricity, you can prepare an entire meal.

- When using your oven, check cooking progress by looking through the window. Opening the oven door for even a few seconds lowers the temperature inside by as much as 25 degrees. If your stove doesn't have a window, try not to open the door to check your food until it's as close to the expected finish time as possible.

- When cooking on your stovetop, match the size of the pan to the heating element. More heat will get to the pan and less will be lost.

- Keep your refrigerator and freezer well-stocked. A full refrigerator or freezer saves energy by reducing the recovery time when the door is opened.



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://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. CT 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  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT 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; Dickinson..... 483-8377  
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah..... 873-4371  
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley..... 948-2427  
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley..... 983-4222  
William Retterath; Center..... 794-8729  
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson..... 483-8207  
Dan Price; Henler..... 794-3779  
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center..... 548-8122  
Callen Schoch; New England..... 290-3836

### MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund..... Co-GM/CEO  
Travis Kupper..... Co-GM/CEO





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