

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2023

## Giving Hearts Day: Giving to those who give back to the community

BY RACHEL NEFF



*Campers at Badlands Ministries participate in activities with the Badlands as a backdrop.*

Each year, North Dakota residents are asked to pledge contributions to local nonprofit organizations during a 24-hour period known as Giving Hearts Day. The longest-running giving day in the country, which started in 2008, has since raised over \$138 million for a variety of nonprofit organizations. With the event taking place this year on Feb. 9, right around Valentine's Day, the hope is individuals would not only show affection to the people they love, but the charities they love, too!

"It's not just a day, it's a year-round effort. Using skills taught by the host foundations, charities build a fundraising system that they put to use on Giving Hearts Day, the 'Super Bowl' of giving in the Upper Midwest," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving

Hearts Day.

"It has become our region's day to feed the hungry, nurture the elderly and educate tomorrow's leaders," she said.

To enrich local North Dakota communities, the Giving Hearts Day organization wanted to see all donations stay local with charities located in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

"Giving Hearts Day is an effective day for donors to give, as each charity raises match dollars from supporters to increase the impact of donors' gifts. Each charity raises a minimum of \$3,000 in matching funds for Giving Hearts Day," Offerman said.

Three local nonprofits in Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area take part in Giving Hearts Day, including Badlands Ministries, the Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

### Badlands Ministries

For 95 years, Badlands Ministries has provided a place for people of all ages and denominations to attend a summer camp nestled in the beautiful landscape of the Badlands. Badlands Ministries is a Christian outdoor ministry and retreat center offering year-round programs for people of all

## What's inside:

- Safety Starts with ME
- We love our communities
- Planning to build?

*Badlands Ministries has year-round activities.*



ages, but specializing in summer camps for youth. Campers at Badlands Ministries are placed in small groups with young adult counselors who guide them through each day of activities.

“Our ministry strives to bring our Christian faith to the reality of today’s children and youth, and our summer programs emphasize faith growth, relationship building, love for God’s creation and developing young leaders,” said Brent Seaks, executive director at Badlands Ministries.

For 11 years, Badlands Ministries has been participating in Giving Hearts Day.

“Badlands Ministries remains one of the most affordable Christian camps in America,” Seaks said. “We have a policy that no child is ever turned away from camp for financial reasons and gave out over \$22,500 in financial aid and camperships last summer. We are able to do this because of the generous financial support we receive from

our donors and Giving Hearts Day, which is our largest fundraising event of the year.”

“A donation to Badlands Ministries on Giving Hearts Day is a gift of camp to a youth when they need it most. It is a gift that changes lives,” Seaks said.

### **Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation**

The Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation (SMCF) was formed to help provide the philanthropic and community resources needed to improve the health and welfare of residents in its service area. The primary focus is to provide needed technological and facility advancements, allowing access to high-quality, yet affordable, health care near local homes and businesses. The secondary focus is to provide funding for further education of local health care professionals. SMCF is committed to providing community health

education and preventive medicine programs.

“Our organization is unique in that we are community owned and operated. Our leadership and our board members are local individuals who are involved in our community and know the area well, which means that they have great insight when it comes to patient needs,” said Carley Martenson, SMCF public relations director. SMCF partners with other local businesses and individuals to raise money that allows the Sakakawea Medical Center to continuously grow and improve.

In addition to the general fund, SMCF funds assistance for those with breast cancer, senior suites and hospice funds.

“Each of these funds allow us to impact specific groups within our community through our different programs and services. Any donations during Giving Hearts Day can be designated to any of these funds,” Martenson remarked. “Contributions to the SMCF are an investment in the future of health care in the Mercer County area.”

### Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

Medora is a small town with a rather large history. The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation’s (TRMF) mission has been and continues to be to preserve Medora for generations and to connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences.

It all began in the 1950s, when Harold Schafer noted the beauty and history of Medora and the Badlands was just too much to let disappear with the sands of time. He made it his life’s work to save it for generations to come. That passion turned into the TRMF as a gift from the Schafer family in 1986.

Today, that passion continues in various ways.

This year, every gift TRMF receives on Giving Hearts Day will benefit the Veterans Day in Medora endowment fund.

“This endowment allows us to host a very special day each summer for veterans, active duty and reserve military members and their families,” said Tim Olson, TRMF communications specialist. “We cover our heroes’ Medora Musical tickets and do



Left to right are Sakakawea Medical Center (SMC) representatives and the Giving Hearts Day match donor, **Brian Williams**, CEO of SMC; **Christie Huber Obenauer**, president of the SMC Foundation and CEO of Union State Bank; and **Jayden Miller**, manager of Stroup Insurance.

all sorts of special things for them.”

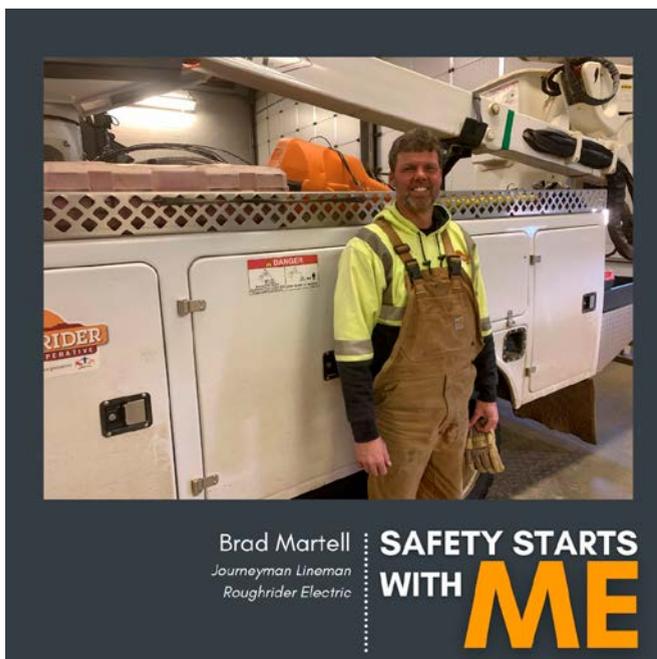
“The more this fund grows, the more ways we’ll be able to extend our gratitude to our veterans,” Olson noted.

“We are so grateful for the local community members across North Dakota, who not only give to Medora, but to other organizations who are doing great things across the state,” said Randy Hatzenbuhler, president of TRMF. “We have great supporters of Medora and are so grateful for each one.” ■



The stars of the Medora Musical sing and perform a reenactment of the Battle of San Juan Hill.

## Safety Starts with ME: **Brad Martell**



You might be aware of the green metal box in your yard, but do you know what it is for? These boxes are known as pad-mount transformers and are crucial in converting electricity to a voltage that is safe for use in homes and businesses.

“Although crucial, pad-mount transformers can be potentially dangerous and should not be messed with,” said Brad Martell, a journeyman lineworker for Roughrider Electric.

“Pad-mount transformers are connected to primary high-voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses,” Martell said. “Be mindful of underground cabinets and transformers before removing snow, planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems and digging, as this may damage underground lines.”

During the winter months, snow removal can be very important around these important pieces to our grid.

“The North Dakota winter can sometimes camouflage these pieces of equipment, making snow removal that much more dangerous,”

Martell said. “Be sure to know the location, if near one, to make snow removal safe and easy.”

Use these tips to keep you and your family safe around pad-mount transformers:

- Remove snow around a pad-mount transformer. Snow piled on electrical equipment can impact your safety and electric service to your home. In the event of an outage, having the pad-mount transformers cleared of any snow will make it easier for lineworkers to restore power.
- Never touch, climb or play near or on a pad-mount transformer. Inform your children the dangers of this piece of equipment.
- Keep the area around a pad-mount transformer clear of any obstructions. A 10-foot radius is recommended. This includes trees, shrubs or other obstructions.

## Help us with safety at Roughrider Electric

Roughrider Electric is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others – before, during and after work. Did you know members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground.

Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider Electric’s attention, please call the office or send us an email at [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com) with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

- Do not dig around a pad-mount transformer. Below are underground lines that can cause damage to you and the electrical system, if hit. Always call 811 before you dig.
- Report any damaged or unlocked transformer to your local cooperative. If you notice anything odd about the equipment, call us

at 800-748-5533.

“At Roughrider Electric, we want to provide you with electricity as well as protect your livelihood,” Martell said. “Please take this information into consideration to keep you and others around you safe.” ■

## Manager’s message: We love our communities



**Travis Kupper**

“To move forward, you have to give back.” This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Roughrider Electric Cooperative to the members we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much

we appreciate serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural North Dakota many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our service area to ensure it continues to thrive.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members (that’s you!) we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Roughrider Electric knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a cooperative.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our area, improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean

many different things. It can mean programs for North Dakota’s youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, in which we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. It’s contributing to Operation Round Up, a program that helps local organizations. It means partnering with organizations like the Rural Development Finance Corporation and other worthy programs.

We all benefit from these programs, because of you and your neighbors. You empower Roughrider Electric through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our service area. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change, fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain we can continue to do good things for our membership. ■



## Planning to build or upgrade?

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

“Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds,” said Shawn Olson, line superintendent at Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Olson said. “For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative.”

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project.

“Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials,” Olson said.

Information you will need to share with the

cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

“If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us,” Olson said.

This year, it is especially important due to the global supply chain disruptions, Olson noted.

“We want to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call us in the early stages,” he said. ■

### Save energy with new builds

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferred products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption. ■

### Save when upgrading an existing structure

Follow these tips to make energy-efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and keep insects at bay. ■

## Nomination process

To comply with Rural Utilities Service requirements, we must provide each member with a summary of the bylaws on the nomination process prior to the nomination of candidates for board positions. Following is the bylaw section on nominations:

### SECTION 4. Nominations.

(a) A Nominating Committee shall be selected by the board of directors in time for its first meeting to be held before the annual meeting of members in 2009 and for each annual meeting of members thereafter. The Nominating Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the cooperative's districts and a minimum of two members from each district shall be selected. No member of the board of directors may serve on the Nominating Committee. The board of directors shall establish rules for the conduct of and arrange for the meeting of the Nominating Committee. The secretary shall notify the members of the Nominating Committee in the manner provided by Article II, Section 4.3 delivered at least fifteen days before the date set for the Committee meeting.

From and after 2009, the Nominating Committee shall meet at least sixty days before the annual meeting of members to nominate at least one qualified candidate for each directorship for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee shall cause a list of nominees for Directors to be posted at the principle office of the Cooperative.

(b) By petition, any fifteen or more members of the same district acting together may make other nominations for each directorship in that district for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members, provided that the petition is filed with the Secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to

the annual meeting of members. The Secretary shall cause to be posted such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

(c) The Secretary shall cause to be mailed, with the notice of the annual meeting of members, or separately but at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.

(d) Unless voting by mail or remote electronic means for directorships has been approved, the President, acting as Chairman of the meeting, shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until a reasonable time has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate at any single annual meeting of members. If extenuating circumstances exist, nominations from the floor may be accepted even though voting by mail or electronic means has occurred.

The Nominating Committee appointed by the board consists of Eugene Kinzel, Dickinson; Ivo Schoch, New England; Alan Kadrmaz, Dickinson; Don Buck, Zap; David Twist, Manning; Robert Fitterer, Golden Valley; Randy Becker, Beulah; Lee Alderin, Center; and Cole Price, Stanton.

The committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 at the Dickinson office.

If you have any questions concerning nominations, feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee or call the Roughrider Electric office for information. ■

# SAVE THE DATE

JOIN ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC FOR YOUR  
ANNUAL MEETING ON  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023**  
**DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA**

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.



**POWER**  
FOR GENERATIONS

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Do you have a home office? **Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use.** In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



In observance of Presidents Day, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed on

# Feb. 20

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

## Board meeting highlights

**When, where and who:** The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met via Microsoft Teams on Dec. 16, 2022.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Nov. 18, 2022, meeting.

**Co-general managers' report:** Travis Kupper presented the co-general managers' report.

**WDUS/3C updates:** A November report was presented to the board from WDUS and subsidiaries.

**Board member reports:** Attendees at the meetings over the past month reported to the board.

**CFO report:** Alex Craigmile presented the board with a summary of financial reports, which were accepted by the board.

**Operations report:** Jason Bentz provided the board with additional information on his written report.

**Member services/key account report:** Leonard Hibl provided the board with an update on his written report.

**Legal report:** Jennifer Grosz provided the board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report. ■



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com)

### HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533  
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545  
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 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 800-748-5533  
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

Greg Steckler, President; Dunn Center.....	548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President; Dickinson.....	483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley.....	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley.....	983-4222
Darell Herman; Beulah.....	873-4371
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson.....	483-8207
Dan Price; Henster.....	794-3779
Callen Schoch; New England.....	290-3836

### MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper.....	Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz.....	Co-GM/CEO



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

[facebook.com/RoughriderElectric](https://facebook.com/RoughriderElectric)